



WELCOME BACK to **Whidbey**

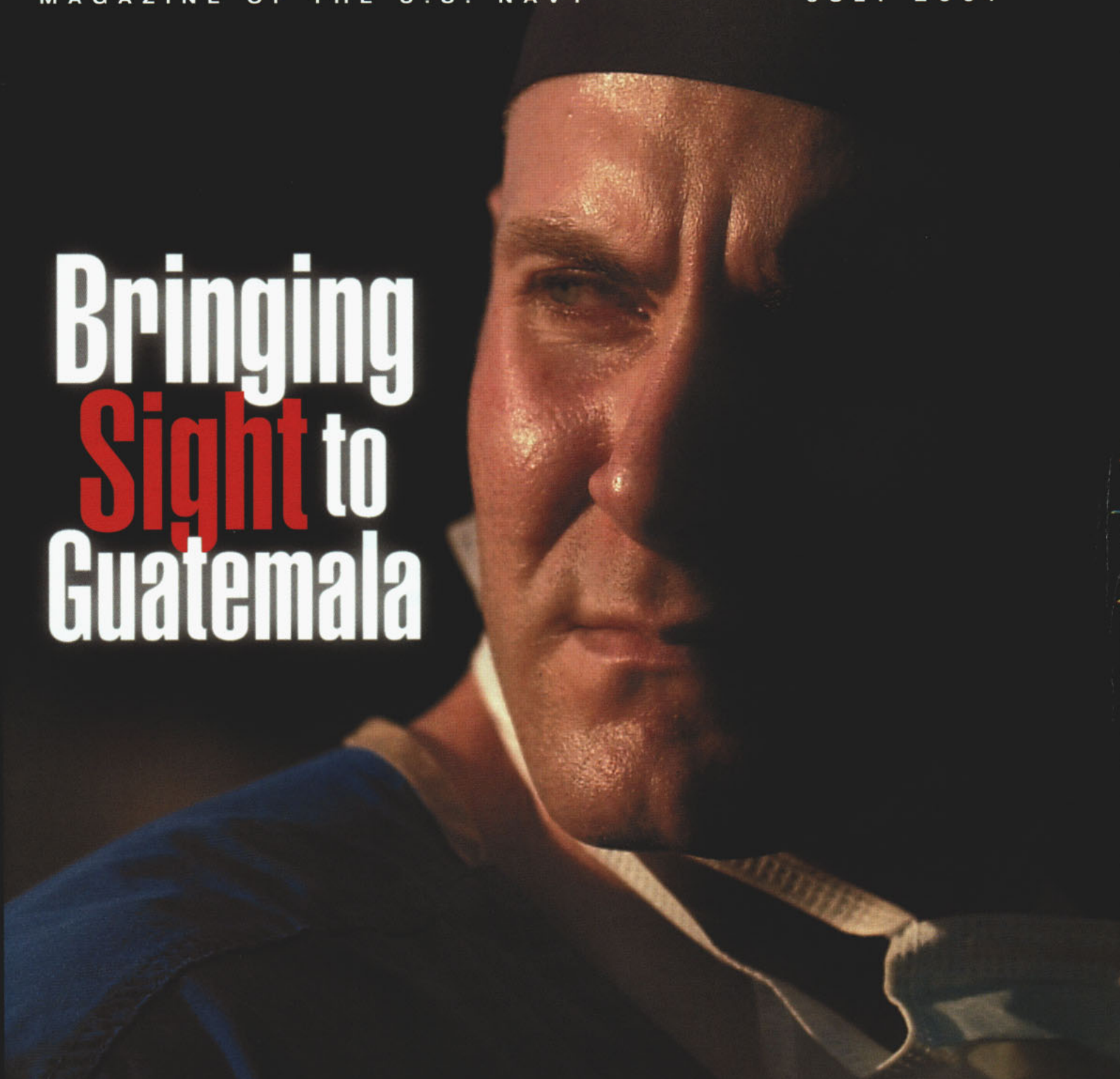
WWW.MEDIACEN.NAVY.MIL

# All **HANDS**

MAGAZINE OF THE U.S. NAVY

JULY 2001

Bringing  
**Sight** to  
Guatemala



# July

## Features

### 15 For Better or Worse

Chief Cryptologist (Communicator) (AW) Katherine Williams and her husband, Chief Cryptologist (Maintenance) Lee Williams, are making a dual military family lifestyle work

while serving as recruit division commanders at Recruit Training Command, Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill. Oh, and by the way, they also have three children.

### 30 Surviving the Sand

When do Sailors trek through the desert? When they train at Naval Air Facility, El Centro, Calif. Their mission: attend Desert Environment Survival Training (DEST) to experience and practice survival and evasion techniques in a simulated desert combat environment.

### 38 Homecoming

It was supposed to be a routine flight, but for the 24-member crew of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 1, out of Whidbey Island, Wash., it became an 11-day ordeal on the Chinese island of Hainan.



Photo by PH2 Aaron Ansarov

# All HANDS

Secretary of the Navy  
The Honorable Gordon R. England

Chief of Naval Operations  
ADM Vern Clark

Chief of Information  
RADM Stephen R. Pietropaoli

Commander, Naval Media Center  
CAPT James M. Kudla

Chief of Publishing  
CDR W. Scott Gureck

Deputy Chief of Publishing  
& Print Media Coordinator  
LT Brook DeWalt

## EDITORIAL

Editor  
Marie G. Johnston

Managing Editor  
JOCS(AW) Dave Desilets

Assistant Editor  
JO1 Preston Keres

Photo Editor  
PH2(AW) Jim Watson

Editorial Staff  
JO1 Joseph Gunder III  
PH2 Aaron Ansarov  
PH2 Robert Houlihan  
PH3 Saul Ingle

## DISTRIBUTION

Garland Powell

## WEB DESIGN

DM1 Rhea Mackenzie

## ART & DESIGN

Rabil & Bates Communication Design Co.

Creative Director  
Debra Bates

Art & Design Director  
Roger O. Salvage Jr.

Graphic Designer  
Seth H. Sirbaugh

Production Designer  
Marco Marchegiani

Digital Prepress Coordinator  
Lisa J. Smith

## PRINTING

John D. Lucas Printing Co.

GPO Printing Specialist  
John Kennedy

All Hands (USPS 372-970; ISSN 0002-5577) Number 1011 is published monthly by the Naval Media Center, Publishing Division, 2713 Mitscher Rd. S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices.

Subscriptions: For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or call (202) 512-1800. Subscription prices are: \$29 (domestic) /\$36.25 (foreign); \$5.50 (single copy domestic) /\$6.88 (single copy foreign).

Postmaster: Send address changes to All Hands, Naval Media Center, Publishing Division 2713 Mitscher Rd., S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819

Editorial Offices: Send submissions and correspondence to Naval Media Center Publishing Division, ATTN: Editor 2713 Mitscher Rd. S.W., Anacostia Annex, D.C. 20373-5819 Tel: DSN 288-4171 or (202) 433-4171 Fax: DSN 288-4747 or (202) 433-4747 E-Mail: [allhands@mediacen.navy.mil](mailto:allhands@mediacen.navy.mil) Message: NAVMEDIACEN WASHINGTON DC //32//

Authorization: The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication is necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Committee.

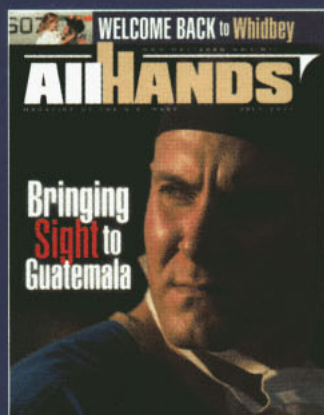
## 22 Do You See What I See?

Navy doctors and hospital corpsmen team up with civilian medical volunteers to bring sight and healing to the people in the highlands of Guatemala.

## Departments

- 6 Around the Fleet
- 44 Twenty 4 Seven
- 46 Eye on the Fleet
- 48 The Final Word

Photo by JO1 Preston Keres



### On the Front Cover

HM3(FMF) Matt Dawson takes a brief break from the fast-paced operating room to observe his environment. He and the rest of a Navy medical team have been working non-stop, treating patients in need of eye surgery in Guatemala.

Photo by JO1 Preston Keres

### Next Month

All Hands brings you to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to witness an environmental partnership that preserves the naval base wildlife. We also look at a fast-riding reptile of a different sort – a rattlesnake.

All Hands  
**WINNER**



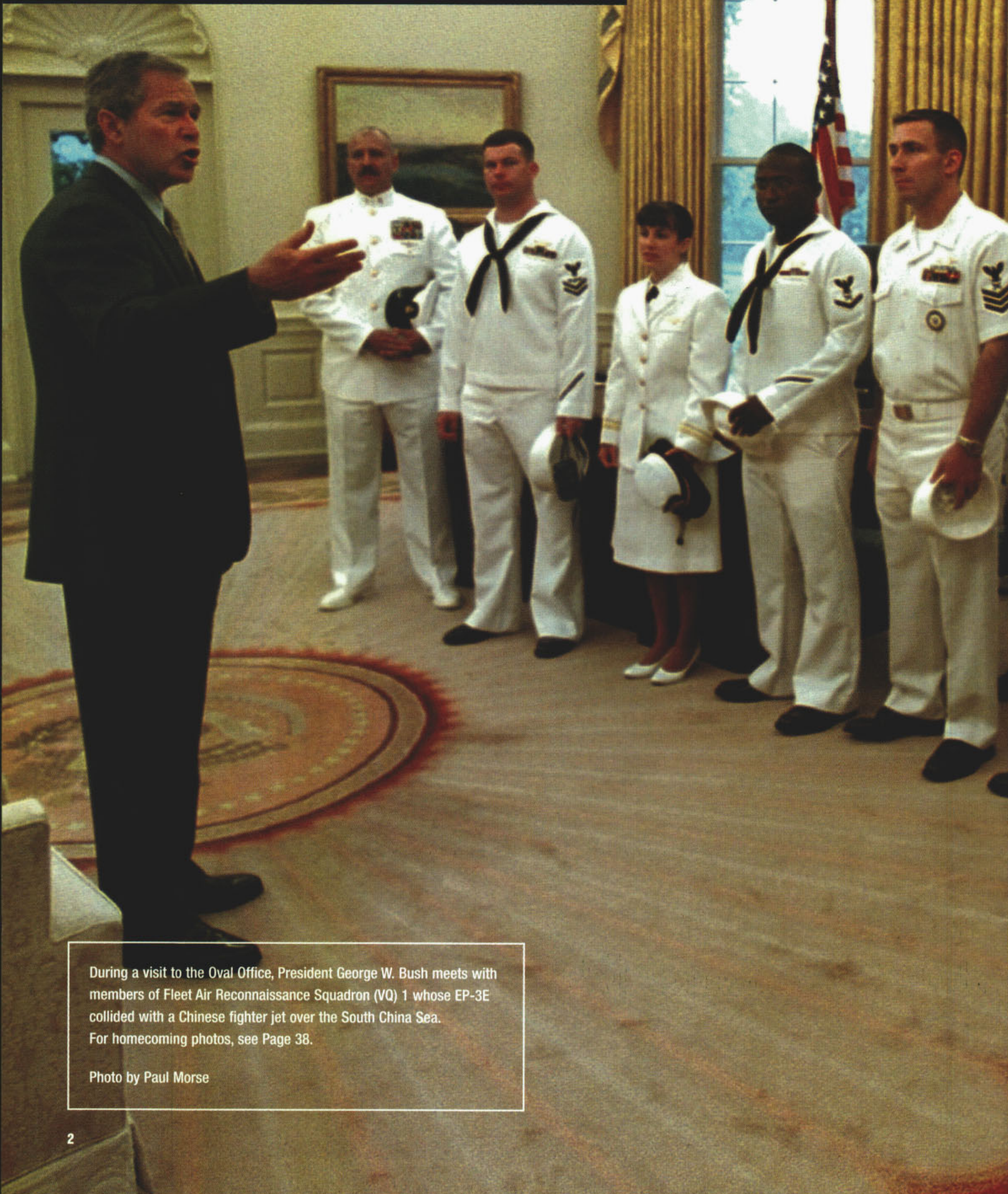
**2000**  
Awards of Magazine  
Excellence

Check us out Online at:

[www.mediacen.navy.mil](http://www.mediacen.navy.mil)



# Presidential Praise



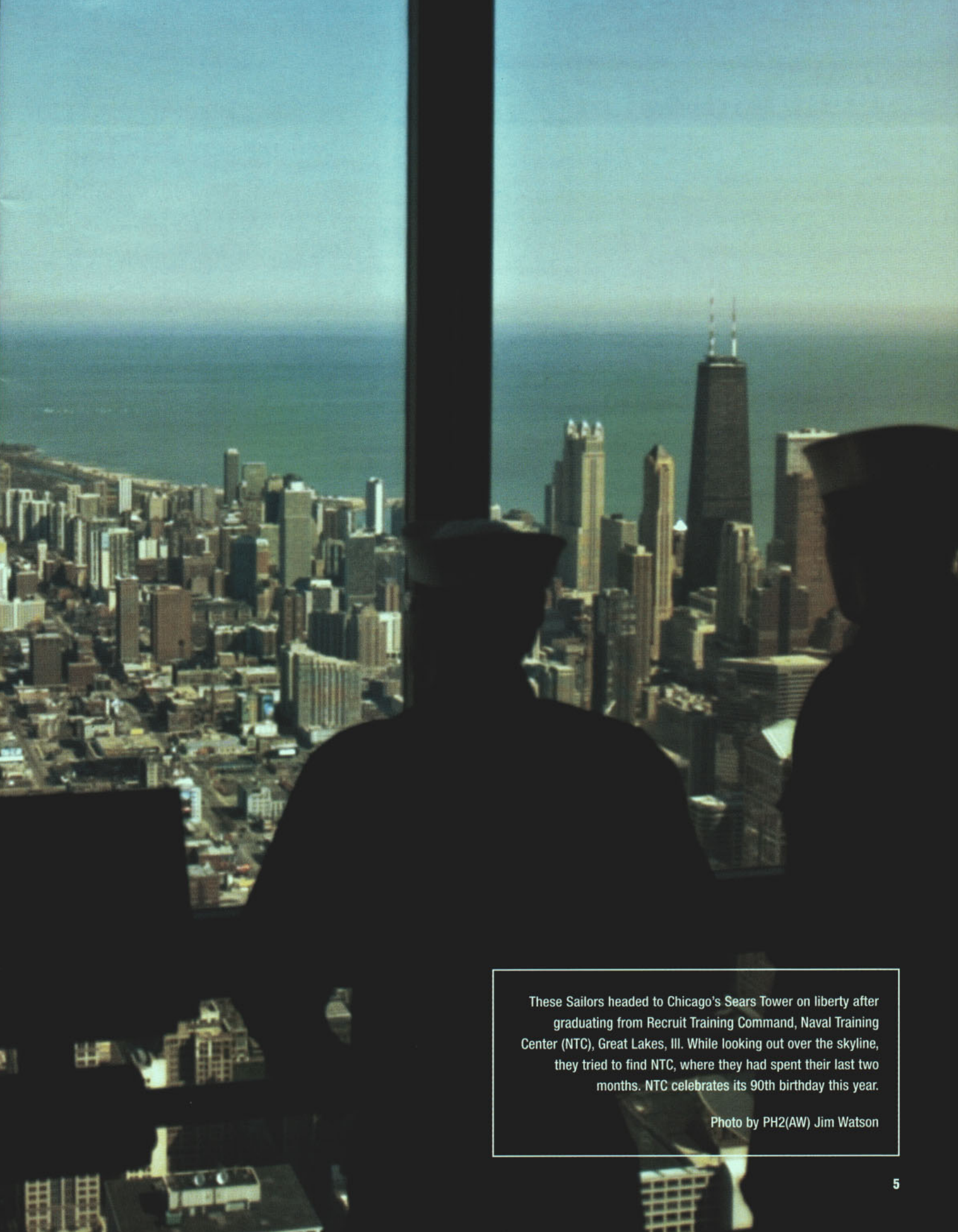
During a visit to the Oval Office, President George W. Bush meets with members of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 1 whose EP-3E collided with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea. For homecoming photos, see Page 38.

Photo by Paul Morse



# Great **View**





These Sailors headed to Chicago's Sears Tower on liberty after graduating from Recruit Training Command, Naval Training Center (NTC), Great Lakes, Ill. While looking out over the skyline, they tried to find NTC, where they had spent their last two months. NTC celebrates its 90th birthday this year.

Photo by PH2(AW) Jim Watson

# Around the Fleet

## Editor,

I just received my *All Hands* April 2001 issue. I read your article on the making of "Pearl Harbor," which I found [to be] very well-written. I am stationed on board USS *Constellation* (CV 64) and I am currently on my Western Pacific Cruise.

I was on board the ship the day that the filming of "Pearl Harbor" took place and had the privilege of talking to some of

the cast and crew myself. I also got some great pictures of the cast and crew, as well as the aircraft (B-25s) and some of the filming sets.

AO3 Robert R. Lax

## Editor,

I enjoy reading *All Hands* very much, and would like to thank you for the wealth of knowledge I have gained over the years from your magazine.

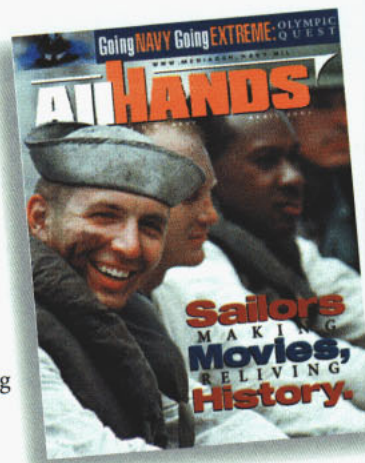
In your April 2001 issue there is an article titled "Down Below." There was nothing said about the snipe called the machinery repairman.

This person of the engineering community does it all from standing watch in the depths of hell, to fighting the fires on the flight deck of a *Greyhound*, or making the parts that keep our ships sailing above and below the surface of the sea. We do not wish to steal the glory of our fellow snipes, only to share in their joy and recognition of a job very well done flying the flag of freedom off the coast of some distant shore.

Look on any ship in the fleet and you will find something that shows that an MR was there to insure that there

mission was done, because of this special type of engineer! If you do not see it, just ask a CHENG and I am sure they could show you what their MR did for the country.

MR1(SW) Gregory D. Stokes



## BY THE Numbers

### 10

The medical team spent 10 hours on the bus to get to Playa Grande, Guatemala. (See story, Page 22)

### 12

The number of teams of Sailors going through Desert Environment Survival Training (DEST) at El Centro, Calif. (See story, Page 30)

### 24

The number of EP-3E crew members arriving at NAS Whidbey Island, Wash., after being held 11 days in China. (See story, Page 38)

### 94

A recruit training company at Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., can have as many as 94 recruits. (See story, Page 14)

## SHIPMATES



YEOMAN 3RD CLASS SANDRA V. MANNING was selected as the 2000 Personnel Support Activities' (PSA) Norfolk Pass Liaison Representative (PLR) of the Year. Each collateral duty PLR is the link between Sailors and their assigned Personnel Support Detachment. Sailors cannot take issues to PSD without first having seen their PLR. Manning, a native of Salem, Va., is currently assigned to Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, as the Leave/Database Manager.



AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER 1ST CLASS MICHAEL COPE, was recently selected as the Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CNAP) Controller of the Year. As the leading petty officer of his division aboard USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72), he guides the careers of 30 Sailors in the operations department. Cope, a native of La Mirada, Calif., has an immediate goal to make chief and long-term plans to "Stay Navy."



AVIATION WARFARE SYSTEMS OPERATOR 1ST CLASS (AW/NAC) MICHAEL J. DEVITO JR., was selected as Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division's Sailor of the Year for 2000. DeVito, assigned to Naval Rotary Wing Aircraft Test Squadron, Patuxent River, Md., is the operations leading petty officer, command safety petty officer, command career counselor and sponsor coordinator as well as a test and evaluation aircrewman. He was also hand selected for three of the nations highest priority helicopter test teams; the Secretary of Defense's Joint Shipboard Helicopter Integration Process (JSHIP), the Executive Transport program and the C/MH-60S/SH-60R programs.



CRYPTOLOGIC TECHNICIAN (TECHNICAL) 1ST CLASS (SW) JOHN A. WENDT was selected as the 2000 Senior (Shore) Sailor of the Year for Fleet Information Warfare Center (FIWC) Detachment, San Diego and Fleet Information Warfare Center, Norfolk. Wendt, a native of Great Lakes, Ill., is the leading petty officer of FIWC Det's Electronic Warfare Productions and Database division and the fleet reprogramming at sea training (RAST) coordinator. He provides training and lectures to Pacific Fleet Carrier Battle Group staff on reprogramming all automated electronic warfare intercept systems based on emergent tasking requirements.

## **Navy Takes Care of its Own with FSSA**

**D**OD's new compensation initiative, Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance (FSSA), became effective May 1, 2001. The program is designed to bring the military member's household income to 130 percent of the federal poverty line and remove them from the food stamp eligibility list. FSSA is a voluntary and non-taxable monthly supplemental allowance.

The maximum amount of FSSA is \$500 a month. The amount received is based on monthly household income and family size. FSSA is available state-side and overseas to active duty, including Coast Guard, members of the Reserve components when on active duty, and their families.

Even if members did not qualify or participate in the Food Stamp Program, they still can apply for FSSA. FSSA is different from the Food Stamp Program in several ways — one being that it is a cash allowance that does not have restrictions placed on its use. The program also relies on a commanding officer's involvement for proper oversight and care of service members that are on the program.

The sum of the supplemental allowance awarded is determined by calculating the total amount of the member's household monthly gross income and family size and comparing it to the USDA Food Stamp gross income limit tables.

Additional information can be found in NAVADMIN 107/01. Applications are available on the PERSNET web site at [www.persnet.navy.mil/pers33](http://www.persnet.navy.mil/pers33) (under "What's New") or on the DOD web site at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/fssa). ☐

*Story by JOC Milinda D. Jensen,  
CNP Public Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.*

Photo by JOC Robert Benson



# **Speaking with Sailors**

**This question is from  
a recent MCPON  
all hands call:**

**Q: After giving me so much outstanding training and qualifications, what is the Navy doing to retain me?**

**A:** The Navy is known for providing Sailors with outstanding work skills and a quality education. This knowledge helps dispel old myths about military service. I want people who may still believe the military is a place for those who can't make it elsewhere to work, to know the truth. The truth is, today's Sailors have the skills and discipline to do anything they want in life.

Many Sailors tell me that it's more than just pay that keeps them in the Navy. In the Navy we give people more responsibility and challenges than they would typically find in the civilian sector. I can promise you that the Navy is going to challenge you to grow and develop throughout your career. I hear this not only from career Sailors, but also from Navy Veterans returning to active duty after giving civilian life a try. Many of them claim to miss the responsibility that they had in the Navy.

While it may be a long time — if ever — before our pay is equal to pay in the civilian sector, those of us in senior leadership roles will continue to push for improved pay. We will also work hard to continue to challenge you and provide you with the quality of service that will make you want to stay in the Navy.

Speaking of pay, I would encourage everyone in the Navy to take a look at the Pay and Compensation Calculator on the [staynavy.navy.mil](http://staynavy.navy.mil) web site. Among other things, this interactive calculator is designed to help Sailors understand the compensa-

tion they receive from the Navy and what their retirement will be worth.

**Q: What does the Navy plan to do about people who decide to leave the service?**

**A:** The first thing is to make sure that every Sailor understands the benefits of a naval career. I believe that a well-informed Sailor is in a much better position to make decisions that are appropriate for his or her particular situation. While high retention rates are always desirable, it is not necessarily a bad thing when a Sailor who has weighed all options, decides to leave the Navy.

There are two kinds of people who get out of the Navy: those who complete their enlistment honorably and, those who don't. I wouldn't want the second group to be the only ones sharing their experiences with the American public.

Whenever I encounter someone who has made an educated decision to leave the Navy, first I thank them for serving their country honorably. I then ask them two things, first to consider carrying their skills over to the Navy Reserve and second to tell people about the great opportunities offered by the Navy and the great experiences they had. I'm sure that when veterans go home and share their Navy experiences, that more often than not they will have positive things to say about the opportunities offered and the skills gained while serving in the Navy. ☐

**Speaking with Sailors is a monthly column initiated by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy as a way of reaching out to the men and women of the fleet, whether they are stationed just down the road or halfway around the world.**

# Around the Fleet

## Essex Sailors Keep Up the PACE

**L**ife at sea presents many challenges for Sailors interested in furthering their education. Normal duties, watches, and frequent unexpected evolutions compete for valuable time. Yet about 130 crewmembers from USS Essex (LHD 2) are overcoming those obstacles by taking courses through the Program for Afloat College Education (PACE).

The classes onboard *Essex* are offered on three different levels. Depending on their skill level, students may participate in either an Academic Skills class or English 1301, both facilitated by a contracted instructor, with other subjects to be offered in the future. Courses are also available on CD-ROM.

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handler) Chief Hernan Lopez, the ship's

PACE Coordinator, said the ship contracted the instructor, Carrie Carr, a part-time adjunct professor from Central Texas College, specifically for the large number of people who need to focus on their language skills. "These types of skills are important to acquire for advancement," Lopez said. "The instructor provides about eight weeks of actual face-to-face instruction."

CD-ROM courses offer more choices through modern technology, but they also have some drawbacks. "There's a limited number of CDs, so you have to share with others who want to take the course," said *Essex* Crewmember Chief Fire Controlman David Cather. "And just motivating yourself is difficult." Yet he quickly adds that there's no other program like PACE, which will cover 100 percent tuition.

Carr explained that the difference between working with civilian students and working with military students is the way they approach education. "A lot of the civilian students aren't as interested in challenging themselves. The military students want to devote more to learning, because they have more at stake and have to overcome more obstacles. They have lived outside their comfort zone." She explained that they can't afford to vacillate about their education. If they really want to take classes, they can't use the excuse that work or watches are getting in the way.

Cather, who is currently taking three courses through Distance Education, echoed her remarks, saying he had to learn how to manage his time effectively if he wanted to succeed with his education. "You have to manage your time or you'll end up failing. You have no choice," he said. "For every course you take, it probably takes two hours outside class time just to study."

For the Sailor at sea, time management translates as finding the time wherever you can. *Essex* Sailor Mess Management Specialist Third Class Scott Brown said he has seen Food Service Attendants taking advantage of the "down time" between serving meals to study. Both Brown and Cather agree that it is too easy to put education off until it's too late.

"I waited for a year after reporting aboard *Essex* before starting school," Brown said. "Now I tell the guys I work with to get started right away."

Cather added that a lot of Sailors just miss out on the opportunity while they are still on active duty. "I went through a Transition Assistance Program class last week," he said, "and the facilitator asked

how many people were close to getting their degree. Out of the 10 people in the class, I was the only one."

CAPT Scott Berg, *Essex*

Commanding Officer, said Sailors should take advantage of the many opportunities the Navy offers.

"Education is not only the key to success in the Navy," CAPT Berg said. "It is the key that opens doors in life. With the programs offered in today's Navy, there really is no excuse for anyone not to be afforded the opportunity to broaden their education base. The PACE program is one of many education opportunities that *Essex* takes full advantage of."

With the PACE program in full swing aboard *Essex*, Lopez sees the fruit of his labor in both the self-satisfaction gained by the students and the long-term benefits gained by the Navy. "It really helps them when it comes to job satisfaction, promotion and knowledge that they can apply to everyday tasks," he said. ☐

Story by JOC Roger Dutcher,  
USS *Essex* (LHD 2)  
Public Affairs Office.



Photo by PH3 Stephanie M. Bergman

### SMART Now Available Back to 1976

**S**ailors who retired or separated from the Navy, back to 1976, can now get a copy of their Sailor/Marine American Council of Education Registry Transcript (SMART). Approximately 700,000 records have been added to the database to allow former Sailors to acquire

# Onassignment

their SMART.

The SMART provides recommended college credits for Navy training and has been used by thousands of Navy personnel to get college credit toward degree programs with American colleges and universities around the world.

"The SMART has been an instant hit with Sailors", according to Jeff Cropsey, director of the voluntary education department at Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center, the organization that manages the Navy College Program (NCP) and SMART for the Navy. "In the first year of operation, more than 500,000 SMARTs have been accessed by Sailors. Now former Sailors can also access their SMART and gain college credit for Navy training back to 1976."

Under NCP, individual SMARTs are available to every member of the Navy and Marine Corps via the Internet, as well as individuals who served on active duty, retirees, and Reservists who have completed Navy training courses since 1976. The SMART documents recommended college credit for a Sailor's military training and occupational experience.

"The Navy has always sought to field a strong, well-trained, well-educated fighting force," said CDR Brian Looney, education programs division director for the Chief of Naval Education and Training. "It is important that everyone have an opportunity to discover that a college education is part of the Navy experience. We will continue to reach out to as many as we can to reinforce the message that it's not a matter of joining the Navy or going to college; Sailors can do both."

Former Sailors who log on for the first time to attain



Photo by HM2 Ed Wargo

The trip to Playa Grande, Guatemala, gave me a chance to see a region of people who were in desperate need of help. Here, I was able to give a little assistance to the doctors by prepping the patients one morning with dilation drops for their eyes before they went to surgery. Watching these people wait in line for hours, and listening to their stories through an interpreter, made me realize

that even in the toughest times and in the worst areas of the country, we don't have it bad at all. Now, when I feel frustrated because I'm not getting what I think I need, I think about this assignment and remember that I don't really need all that I think I do. ☒

*Keres is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.*

their SMART will receive a prompt to provide their active duty service date, pay entry base date, or last day on active duty date. If at anytime a person has difficulty getting their SMART or entering the system, they may contact the Navy College Center for assistance.

Individuals interested in obtaining a copy of their SMART may log on the NCP web site at [www.navycollege.](http://www.navycollege.)

[navy.mil](http://navy.mil), or call the Navy College Center from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., CST, seven days a week at (877) 253-7122. ☒

*Story by CNET Public Affairs Office, Pensacola, Fla.*

## New "Navy Cash" Financial System to be Tested

The Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP) has unveiled "Navy Cash," an automated cash handling system based on a new state-of-the-art debit card. It will be prototyped on two Navy ships in 2001 and 2002.

The Navy Cash prototype

# Around the Fleet

## TIME CAPSULE

This month we checked out the *All Hands* archives to see what was going on in the Navy 75, 50, 25 and 10 years ago.



### 75 Years Ago – July 1926

In this four-page edition of the "BUPERS Information Bulletin," we passed down the new provisions for retiring officers. We also called for the fleet to look over their beneficiary slips to correct any mistakes. Finally, we posted the new movies the fleet would be receiving like, "Driftin' Through" starring Harry Carey and the "Phantom Bullet" starring Hoot Gibson.



### 50 Years Ago – July 1951

In this month's edition of *All Hands*, we followed Navy corpsmen through their training for upcoming duty in Korea. We also reported on the efforts of a team of Navy cooks in Pearl Harbor, who were going out of their way to make sure every Sailor enjoyed his meal. Finally, we followed a Navy nurse through her tireless day on board a hospital ship.



### 25 Years Ago – July 1976

This issue of *All Hands* brought Sailors an interview with then-Chief of Naval Operations, ADM James Holloway III, about his vision of the Navy. We also stopped by the Naval Research Lab to see how Navy scientists contribute to the space program. Finally we assessed the damage Super Typhoon Pamela caused in Guam.



### 10 Years Ago – July 1991

In this issue of *All Hands*, we rode along with several mine sweepers as they combed the Persian Gulf for Iraqi mines. We also watched as USS *Inchon* (LPH 12) pulled into Naval Station Norfolk to a heroes welcome after serving in Operation Desert Storm. Finally, we reported on what the Navy and Coast Guard were doing to clean up the oil spills left over from the Gulf War.

will involve as many as 15,000 Navy Cash cards, which will be issued to the crewmembers of USS *Rentz* (FFG 46) and a *Nimitz*-class carrier and embarked air wing which will be named soon.

The Navy Smart Card Office, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the banking industry have teamed together to bring this revolutionary financial technology to Sailors and Marines.

Navy Cash is a key quality-of-life initiative that evolved from the Navy's ATMs-at-Sea program. Navy Cash will significantly improve the convenience of making purchases on or off ships and the capability of Sailors and Marines to better manage their personal finances and safeguard their money.

Navy Cash allows Sailors and Marines to buy virtually anything they need on board ship or ashore with a wallet-sized plastic card that combines two technologies, a computer chip and a magnetic stripe. The chip provides an electronic purse (E-purse) capability and the magnetic stripe provides a debit feature and access to automated teller machines (ATMs).

Sailors and Marines will use the E-purse feature to buy items at point-of-sale terminals located in the ship's store, post office, Morale Welfare and Recreation events, wardroom and other retail locations throughout the ship, including vending and game machines. The debit feature will be used to withdraw cash at more than 529,000 ATMs or to purchase just about anything else they need from 18 million merchants worldwide.

Navy Cash also provides Sailors and Marines electronic access to their personal checking and savings accounts ashore,

no matter where their banks or credit unions are located. They may transfer funds to and from their Navy Cash accounts, E-purse and personal bank accounts as needed. This includes their military pay, travel pay and special pay deposited through the Navy's Direct Deposit System. Navy Cash provides these financial services at no expense to Sailors and Marines, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. ☑

Story by NAVSUP Public Affairs Office, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

## REDUX Retirement Plan Not Only Option

**M**ilitary members who fall under the Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986 (popularly known as the REDUX retired pay system) are now under the more lucrative "high three" pay system. However, they may elect to remain under REDUX and receive a bonus if they meet requirements established by the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of FY00.

One of the highlights of the changes include service members being pulled out of the REDUX retired pay system (40 percent base pay for 20 years) and placed in the "High-3" retired pay system (50 percent base pay for 20 years).

The law also created a lump sum \$30,000 Career Status Bonus (CSB) for members who initially entered Aug. 1, 1986, or later who are willing to elect the REDUX retired pay system on their 15th anniversary of active duty and agree to remain on continuous active duty until their 20th anniversary.

Each requirement detailed in NAVADMIN 020/01 must

be met to be eligible for the CSB/REDUX retired pay system. Service members who don't meet all the eligibility requirements on their 15th anniversary of active duty will not have the opportunity to elect the CSB/REDUX, unless the member falls within exceptions issued by the Secretary of the Navy.

The SECNAV will soon issue a Career Status Bonus instruction for the Navy and Marine Corps that will detail exceptions.

Active-duty members with a Date of Initial Entry into Military (Uniformed) Service (DIEMS) of Aug. 1, 1986 or later will be notified by a GENADMIN message on or shortly before the date they complete 14 years and six months of active duty to notify them that they may be eligible to make a CSB/REDUX election.

The notification message will include information on the member's DIEMS date and active duty start date, explain how members can find their DIEMS date on documents in their permanent service record and make corrections to the Navy's master file or their permanent service record if needed. It will also include an

explanation of the three different retired pay systems, the formula used to calculate retired pay under each system, and the rules governing election of CSB/REDUX.

See NAVADMIN 020/01 on the BUPERS web site at [www.bupers.navy.mil](http://www.bupers.navy.mil) for detailed information on the policies, procedures and responsibilities the Department of Defense has developed to implement and administer the Career Status Bonus (CSB) and related retired pay reforms enacted in the FY00 NDAA. For general information about military pay and benefits, go to [pay2000.dtic.mil](http://pay2000.dtic.mil). ☐

Story by LTJG Kim Brasel, CNP  
Public Affairs Office,  
Washington, D.C.

### Myths/Conceptions: Setting the Record Straight About Drugs in the Navy

**Z**ero tolerance...two words that sum up the Navy's policy on drugs.

And although the Navy was recently singled out as the only military service with a signifi-

cant decline in drug abuse since 1995, being proactive remains a necessary practice.

Toward that end, commands are encouraged to continue educating their Sailors about the adverse health and legal consequences of drug abuse. Many myths exist concerning this, often leading to the false impression that drug abuse is nothing out of the ordinary. The following information, provided by the Atlantic Fleet Drug Abuse Working Group, is intended to set the record straight and help dispel some of those myths.

**Myth:** Only some of the urine samples submitted are tested.

**Reality:** The Navy Drug Screening Laboratory tests every sample submitted from Navy commands.

**Myth:** Once I have a urinalysis, I'm safe to do drugs for a while.

**Reality:** Commands use a computer-based program designed to randomly select command personnel and testing days. The tests are conducted without warning and with no set pattern. You may be tested multiple times during a single month.

**Myth:** Navy urinalysis isn't very accurate.

**Reality:** The Navy Drug Screening Laboratory uses the most sophisticated equipment available and produces scientifically accurate and legally defensible results.

**Myth:** Club/Rave drugs (such as ecstasy, Ice and Special K) are not very dangerous.

**Reality:** These mood- and consciousness-altering drugs have been around for 20 years or more. They are simply being repackaged with a new name to reach a new generation. They can be highly addictive, and lethal, if mixed with alcohol. Twenty-nine point one percent of ecstasy users also abuse one or more other illegal substances, indicating it is likely to be a gateway drug.

**Myth:** Ecstasy is undetectable by Navy urinalysis and military working dogs.

**Reality:** Every urine sample is tested for ecstasy. In addition, military working dogs are being trained to detect ecstasy and other club drugs.

**Myth:** Marijuana is harmless.

**Reality:** Marijuana contains an unstable mixture of more

## Ricky's Tour

By J02 Mike Jones

[mikejones43@hotmail.com](mailto:mikejones43@hotmail.com)



## E-Nose Noses Out Mines

**C**anines are known for their sensitive sniffers, but now scientists have developed an artificial nose that operates without chow or regular walks and won't bark at squirrels. Researchers at Tufts University constructed an *electronic nose* that has about 20 attributes of living noses and their information processing capabilities. While living noses have about 1,000 different chemical receptors for identifying smells, the electronic nose is performing well in preliminary tests of its ability to detect landmines.

## INNOVATORS

By looking for the chemical explosives of landmines, an electronic nose mounted on a robot, for example, promises to work more efficiently than typical landmine detectors that simply look for the presence of metals – a plentiful commodity in battlefields. “Chemical sensing is one way of doing it better,” said Dr. Harold Bright, program manager for the E-Nose project at the Office of Naval Research.

The sensor works by picking up air puffed across the E-nose. This sensor can detect changes in odors as well as distinguish a number of odors. Right now the dogs have a slight advantage in “nose-to-nose” tests, but E-nose is making great strides and “won't get tired, sick or refuse to work,” said Bright.

The E-nose uses a family of fluorescent polymers, developed with support from the Office of Naval Research. Polymers are materials containing many tiny building blocks that are linked together to form long chains. Polymers occur in nature in the form of tars and oils, while plastics and non-stick cookware coatings are synthetic polymers. The E-nose polymers are embedded in sensor arrays that generate patterns from the sniffed materials.

Alongside the E-nose, a commercial gene chip company is also using the same Office of Naval Research-funded array technology for DNA gene sequencing and are creating next-generation diagnostic tools for personalized medicine. ☒

*Story courtesy of Office of Naval Research*

than 425 toxic and psychoactive chemicals. It impairs memory, learning, motivation and reflexes, and has been found to be addictive. In addition, studies have shown that 12- to 17-year-olds who smoke marijuana are 85 times more likely to use cocaine than those who do not.

**Myth:** Cocaine is hard to detect, because it leaves your body quickly.

**Reality:** Cocaine use can be detected up to 72 hours after the last use.

**Myth:** The only way to detect LSD use is through a spinal tap.

**Reality:** Navy urinalysis can detect LSD use.

**Myth:** If I get a drug discharge, it will automatically get upgraded in six months.

**Reality:** There is nothing automatic about a discharge review. The extremely complicated process requires that you show the Navy Discharge Review Board that the alleged entry or omission in the records was in error or unjust. The board receives hundreds of requests annually, and in the last three years not one drug discharge upgrade request was approved.

**Myth:** A drug discharge has little effect on my veteran's benefits.

**Reality:** If you are discharged due to drug abuse, you lose all of your benefits. This includes your Montgomery G.I. Bill and Federal College Fund benefits. And if you apply for student aid, the Department of Education must verify you have not been convicted of a drug-related offense. Lastly, your discharge papers are available to any employer who seeks background information on you. Only an honorable or general discharge guarantees you all the benefits due a veteran.

The bottom line is that drug abuse in the Navy is a losing proposition. It can cost your health, your career, even your life. Make the right choice. For more information on the Navy's drug screening program contact your local Drug and Alcohol Program Advisor, your local Urinalysis Program Coordinators, or visit [www.dapmaeast.navy.mil](http://www.dapmaeast.navy.mil). ☐

Story by JO1 James E. Scott,  
CINCLANTFLT Public  
Affairs Office, Norfolk.

## New Requirements for Next of Kin Documentation

Navy officials recently announced a policy and procedure change designed to provide more rapid primary and secondary next of kin (PNOK and SNOK) notification whenever a Sailor is involved in an emergency situation.

Effective immediately, Sailors are required to add the names of PNOK/SNOK, addresses and telephone numbers to the DD 93 Record of Emergency Data or NAVPERS 1070/602 Dependency Application/Record of Emergency Data.

For more details, please see NAVADMIN 098/01.

Additional guidance regarding listing next of kin information can be obtained from Ms. Sandy DuBois, PERS-621, assistant head casualty assistance branch at Navy Personnel Command at DSN 882-4299 or (901) 874-4299, or via e-mail at <mailto:Sandy.DuBois@persnet.navy.mil>. ☐

Story by Michael McLellan,  
NAVPERSCOM Public Affairs  
Office, Millington, Tenn.

# Long Day's Journey Into War

Book Review by CDR W. Scott Gureck

*Long Day's Journey Into War Pearl Harbor  
and a World at War – December 7, 1941*

By Stanley Weintraub

The Lyons Press; New York, N.Y.; 716 pgs.

The recent release of Touchstone Pictures' "Pearl Harbor," combined with the fact that 2001 marks the 60th anniversary of the attack, has generated above-normal interest in "a date which will live in infamy."

For some, the movie and news coverage will inspire them to read a book about the subject, and they would do well making Stanley Weintraub's account their first choice. By giving a thoroughly documented historical event a fresh and interesting treatment, *Long Day's Journey Into War* reads more like an action-adventure novel than a history text.

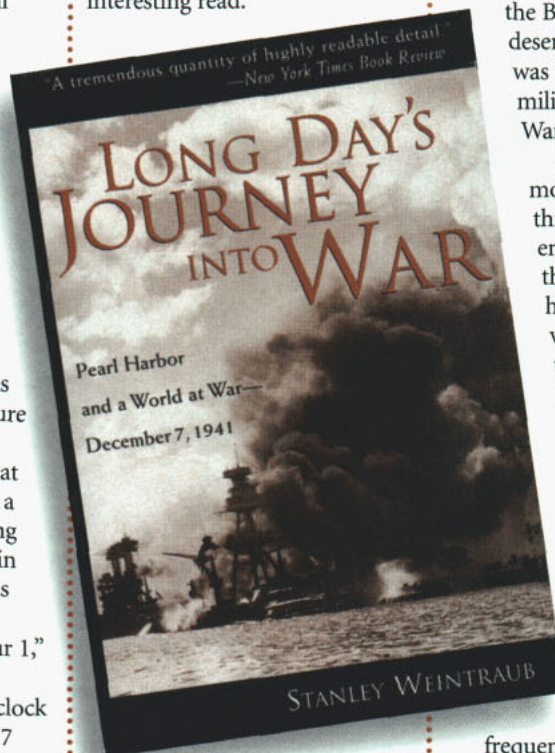
Weintraub's "hook" is that he provides the reader with a snapshot of the world during the 48 hours during which in at least one time zone, it was Dec. 7, 1941.

Chapter 1, entitled "Hour 1," describes the world as you would have found it as the clock struck midnight December 7 on Navy-run Wake Island, which sits just on the other side of the International Date Line. At that hour, it was 10 p.m. December 6 in Tokyo, 2 p.m. in Moscow, and on the other side of the Date Line, it was still only 2:30 [sic] a.m. in Pearl Harbor. In other words, he begins his Pearl Harbor chronology some 29 hours before the attack.

Each chapter then, covers the events of December 7 in one-hour increments, closing

with "Hour 47," as the clock strikes midnight December 8, on Midway Island.

What an amazing 48 hours this was, and Weintraub's use of this technique makes for a very interesting read.



What I particularly liked about this book is the thoroughness with which the author documents every corner of a world at war, not just those directly related to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Through the use of numerous updates on various story threads (Tom Clancy fans will feel right at home), the reader gets a much better grasp of the magnitude and scope of the larger global conflict.

For example, interspersed throughout the Pearl Harbor chronology are brief descriptions about events in Leningrad (under siege by the Nazis), at Wolfsschanze (Adolf Hitler's headquarters, where he was dictating strategy to his generals), and Berlin (where that day alone, at least 900 Jews were rounded up and sent to a concentration camp). Other brief updates inform the reader that Rommel was facing the British in the Libyan desert, and that Churchill was meeting with his military chiefs in the War Room at Whitehall.

Besides making a more interesting book, this technique also ensures that the reader avoids historical "tunnel vision," i.e. a tendency to look at individual historic events as isolated and disconnected, when in fact, they are often intertwined in subtle, yet profound ways.

There's plenty here about what was going on in Tokyo, Hawaii and Washington, D.C., but by

frequently getting updates about events elsewhere, the reader can better understand the how and why of the surprise attack. More importantly the reader gets a greater appreciation of the magnitude and scope of the global conflict America entered into the next day. ☐

Gureck is Chief of Publishing,  
Naval Media Center,  
Washington, D.C.

# FOR BETTER OR WORSE

**W**HEN COUPLES MAKE THEIR marriage vows, do they really mean what they say?

Through good times and bad, through sickness and health, through long work hours separated from family for what can seem like an eternity. Are they really going to stand by each other and say, "Yes, really. It's OK that I haven't seen you in a week, a month or half a year for that matter."

So, how do some couples do it? How do they make a marriage work when so many others fail? Honestly, we may never know, but maybe, just maybe, we could take a few pointers from Chief

Cryptologist (Communicator) (AW) Katherine Williams and her husband, Chief Cryptologist (Maintenance) Lee Williams. Together, they're making the arduous lifestyle of a dual military family work while fulfilling their service obligations as recruit division commanders (RDC) at Recruit Training Command (RTC), Naval Training Center (NTC), Great Lakes, Ill., working some of the longest hours in the fleet. Oh, and by the way, they also have three children, each four years apart, who demand constant attention and want a piece of every free moment their two parents have to spare.



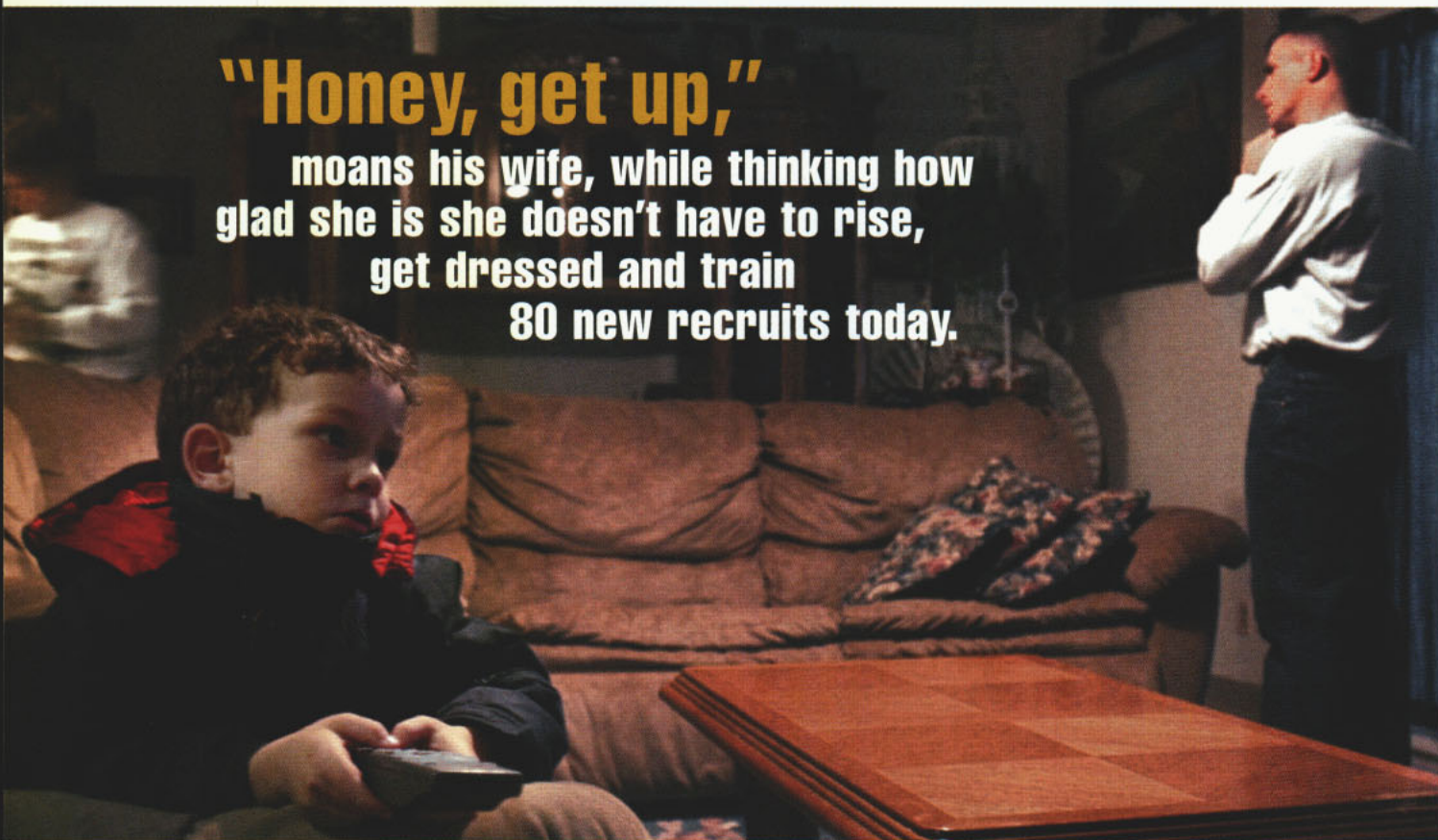
CTOC(AW) Katherine Williams hugs her oldest son Brandon during a bowling match in which he bet that if he beat mom and dad, he would not have to do his daily chores.



"DAD, SHUT OFF THE ALARMS!" his son hollers from the other room. Brandon still has another three glorious hours of slumber before he and his brother have to wake up and get ready for school.

"Honey, get up," moans his wife, while thinking how glad she is she doesn't have to rise, get dressed and train 80 new recruits today. Of course, three weeks ago, she was the one getting up before the sun to push boots on the streets of NTC. It was her turn to play tag-team with her

**"Honey, get up,"**  
moans his wife, while thinking how  
glad she is she doesn't have to rise,  
get dressed and train  
80 new recruits today.



**Top** – CTOC(AW) Katherine Williams has to wake Trevor up early so she can get him to the Child Development Center (CDC).

**Above** – Trevor flicks through the channels on the television, waiting for his mom and dad to finish catching up on the day, before they leave for his T-ball practice and his dad's softball practice.

**T**he ear-piercing shriek of two beside alarms going off simultaneously breaks the silence at 3:30 a.m.

Seconds later, a third alarm explodes into action from under the bed — put there precisely because it's impossible to ignore. Within minutes the house will be bustling with the chaos of early morning routines. Three alarms may seem like a little much, but with only three hours of sleep, Lee, who was up late with a new batch of recruits, sees it more like an insurance policy.

husband over the family responsibilities; all the while teaching what she calls her second children, the in's and out's of the Navy.

But not today. Today, Katherine gets to be just plain old "Mom." That is until 10 a.m., when she has to go and meet her husband to prepare for his division's berthing inspection, called a "static." She really doesn't have to go help him out, but when else is she going to see him today since he won't be home until well after 10 p.m.

"Taking his meals to him, or having the ability to just stop by and say 'hi' has really helped us here. The opposite is also true when I am pushing. He always makes time to see the kids and myself whenever possible," said Katherine. "We always go out of our way to keep our family strong and happy, while excelling in our careers."

And then there's that meeting at noon with the other dedicated chiefs from NTC who were recently selected for limited duty officer (LDO) or warrant

later on that night, since his recruits are getting further along in their training, and need less and less one-on-one guidance, he will be home early for some rough-housing with his boys or to watch a movie after dinner.

On any given month, the scenario could be completely opposite with Lee carrying out the family duties and Katherine pushing the boots. And sometimes, they both are away molding new Sailors. Not to worry though, Brandon, the oldest of the bunch, watches his



## FOP BETTER OR WORSE

**Left** — "Well, I know I'm not going to buy you a motorcycle now," laughs CTMC Lee Williams as his son, Brandon, plays a Harley-Davidson Motorcycle video game. The family is able to find some time on weekends and evenings to go out and have fun together.

**Below** — Brandon Williams watches over his brother Tyler as he phones his father to let him know they made it home from school safely. Brandon walks over to Tyler's school every day to walk him home.

officer (like herself), to plan for their commissioning day.

But first, she has to take her 5-year-old son, Trevor, to daycare, make sure her oldest two sons — Brandon, 13, and Tyler, 9 — have gotten up, finished their breakfasts and are heading out to school. Then she must finish any odds and ends around the house — i.e., dishes, laundry, vacuuming and picking up after a cyclone of three children. After that, she'll get her uniform looking sharp, and somewhere in her hectic schedule, she will need to find time to take a breath.

On the other side of the family tree, Lee is rushing to and from recruit training, feeling the strain of 18-hour days sculpting recruits. "If you want to succeed, you have to be there with the boots," he often says as he rushes out the door to his next training event. Although,



brothers under the caring eyes of their next-door neighbors.

"If there was an award for kid of the year, he would get it hands down," said Katherine to her husband, who replies that he feels like Brandon has almost had to grown up too soon. Yet, they know their small day-to-day sacrifices are offset

by the large amounts of love they show one and another.

So how do they do it? Sometimes they don't even know themselves. But when asked, Katherine quickly praises her family, who she says has a lot to do with it.

"Not to mention her amazing ability for time management, and the

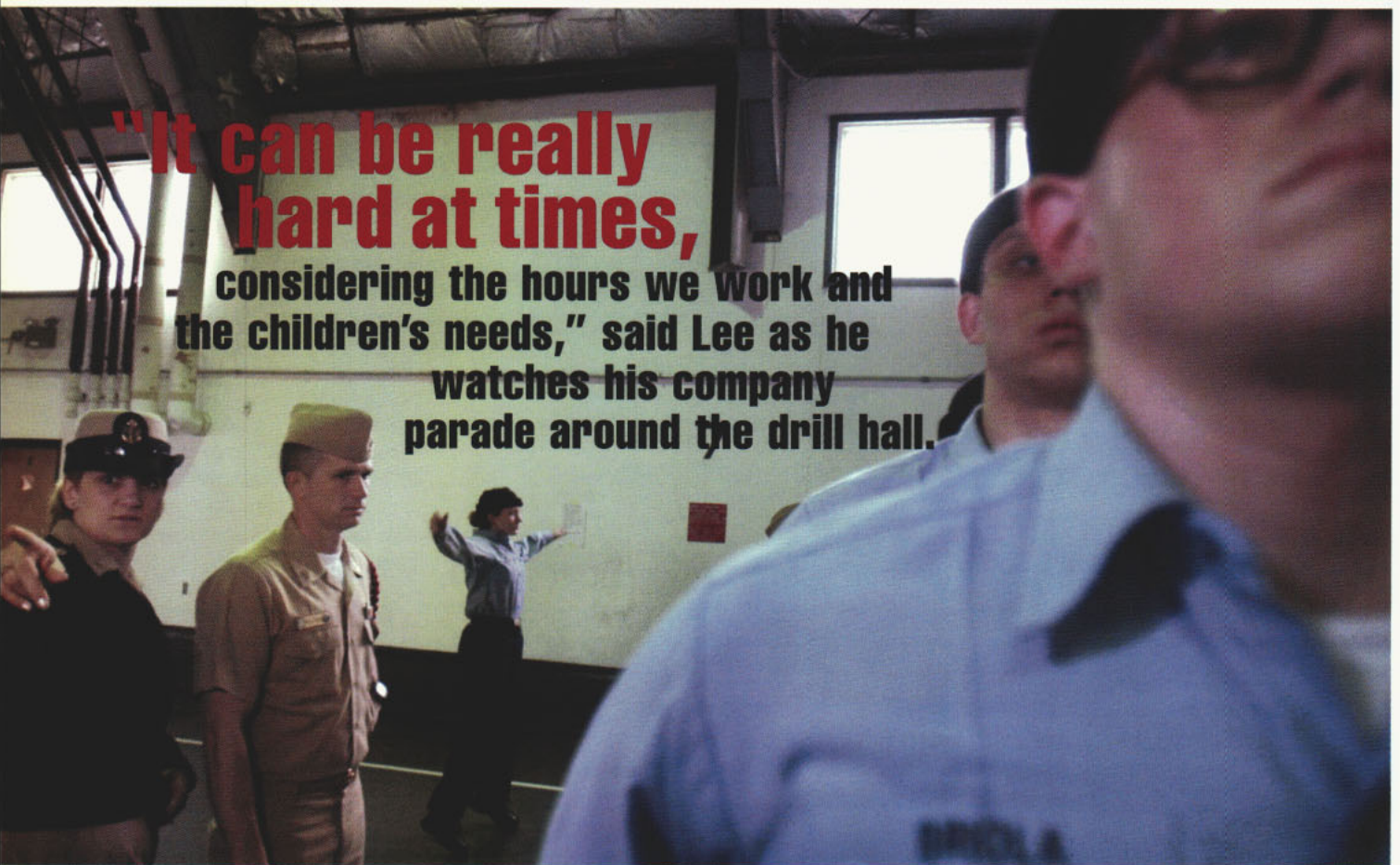
drive and determination to be the best at what she does — RDC, chief, mother, wife," said Lee. "She's up for any challenge and is the one who really keeps our heads above ground. I just don't know what I would do without her and the help of our children."

"This duty has been anything but



"Our hectic schedules can really hinder a traditional family lifestyle," continues Katherine while still eyeing her children every three or four seconds. "It really takes a strong marriage to be dual military, especially when assigned here at NTC. We make extra time for homework, family outings to the movies or the bowling alley. And sometimes we just like to sit back, relax and just be together."

Those days may be a little hard to come by, but when they do, they are what keeps the family together.



**Top** – "You're not supposed to win," cries Trevor as his mother pulls the "Sorry" card and puts his playing piece back to start. Playing games with the children gives Katherine time to get away from her stressful duty pushing boots at Recruit Training Command.

**Above** – "It's literally the only time I get to spend with him some days," says Katherine. By helping her husband CTMC Lee Williams, with his company when she doesn't have one gives them more time together than they normally would have.

easy," said Katherine, trying to smile, as she navigates her SUV through downtown traffic with three kids in the back laughing and carrying on. She takes a quick look in the rear-view mirror. "Brandon, is he in his seat belt?" referring to her youngest child, Trevor, who has just turned five.

"Yeah, Mom," he quickly replies, before continuing his conversation with Tyler about school and what cool things happened today.

The typical day for an RDC starts at 4 a.m. with reveille and a click of the light switch. With that, a division of up to 94 weary-eyed recruits jumps out of bed, falls in line, then marches off to physical training.

As the recruits shower and prepare their compartment for the morning inspection, Katherine runs back home to wake and dress little Trevor, who often gives her his "it's way to early for this" stare. Before departing once again to take



# BETTER OR WORSE



**Left** — “Where do you think you’re going,” laughs Lee Williams as he tickles his son Trevor. Quality time at home is rare for the Williams’ since both mother and father are recruit division commanders.

**Above** — Still dressed in the uniform of the day, Lee looks at an “owie” that Trevor got while at day care.

Trevor to the Child Development Center, she wakes up her other two boys and instructs them to get dressed and ready for school.

With her boys taken care of, she rushes back to the “ship” and sprints through any necessary administrative paperwork. Then she walks through the berthing area to monitor the recruit’s progress — shouting here and there to ensure they are just as awake as she is this early in the morning. Then, she prepares

for the rest of the day by looking at the master training schedule.

Once morning cleaning and PT are complete, Katherine must prepare the division for breakfast and march them over to the galley in what tends to be rather harsh weather. Either it’s extremely cold with a wind that really bites in the winter, or boiling hot in the summer. There’s no real in-between. But she presses on, remembering this is duty both she and Lee wanted.

“It was the first time we ever got the duty we asked for,” said Katherine. “Before, we had taken whatever was available because it was the only thing they had for dual families at the time. We thought it was more important to keep the family together, rather than take duty we wanted or thought could really progress our careers. For the first time in 15 years, we actually got to make a choice on where we were going.”

So after their initial duty in Iceland,

where they met and were married, they moved on to Okinawa, then Washington, D.C., and from there on to Guam, all of which were not on their lists as choices for prime duty.

"Although many of our duty stations were places we never wanted to go, once we arrived we quickly fell in love with them," said Katherine. "I think many people are skeptical about their duty at first, but with strong family support, all your duty stations can be great"

weeks before the chief's exam, he had to try and study for the classified rating of cryptology, which called for him to travel for hours to other bases that had the information, all the while balancing his duties as RDC, father and husband.

"It can be really hard at times, considering the hours we work and the children's needs," said Lee as he watches his company parade around the drill hall. "When we both have division's we are doing a tag-team thing where she's

**"Still, it has been very rewarding duty, especially seeing what we have achieved with turning a civilian into a Sailor."**



"Wake up, Daddy. It's time to play," says 5-year-old Trevor, pulling on his Dad's face. After a very long day pushing boots, CTMC Lee Williams falls asleep on the couch.

However, they finally got what they wanted in 1998 when they arrived at Great Lakes and began what they would soon find to be their biggest challenge yet.

"It was initially about promotion. Lee and I both wanted to make chief and knew this was the place to do it," said Katherine. "I made it before we even got here though, and Lee made it shortly after we arrived. Still it has been very rewarding duty, especially seeing what we have achieved with turning a civilian into a Sailor."

Although, it wasn't easy for Lee, who had to deal with his mother's death just

coming and I'm going."

Living like that can mean you may only see your spouse for moments rather than hours or even minutes a day, not to mention the time the children spend with a sitter or with only one parent around.

As the loudspeaker inside the barracks sounds "Tattoo, tattoo, lights out in five minutes," Lee prepares his troops for the end of yet another day, knowing his children, as well as his wife, have probably already gone over homework, sat down for dinner together, talked about the day and even gone on to bed. He will be returning

to his home exactly how he left it — dark with his family fast asleep. But most importantly — he knows they will be there.

At precisely 10 p.m., the lights go out and Lee looks over any remaining problems, files away some paperwork with the barracks duty officer and retires for the night, thinking to himself that he will be right back here in less than six hours.

When he arrives home, he finds Katherine is almost asleep, drained from a

day of the boys' baseball practice, various meetings and housework. They talk about their day, console each other and savor the silence that ultimately soothes them to sleep. As they hold each other tight, they think to themselves, this is the "for better" part. ☑

*Watson is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.*



## FOR BETTER OR WORSE

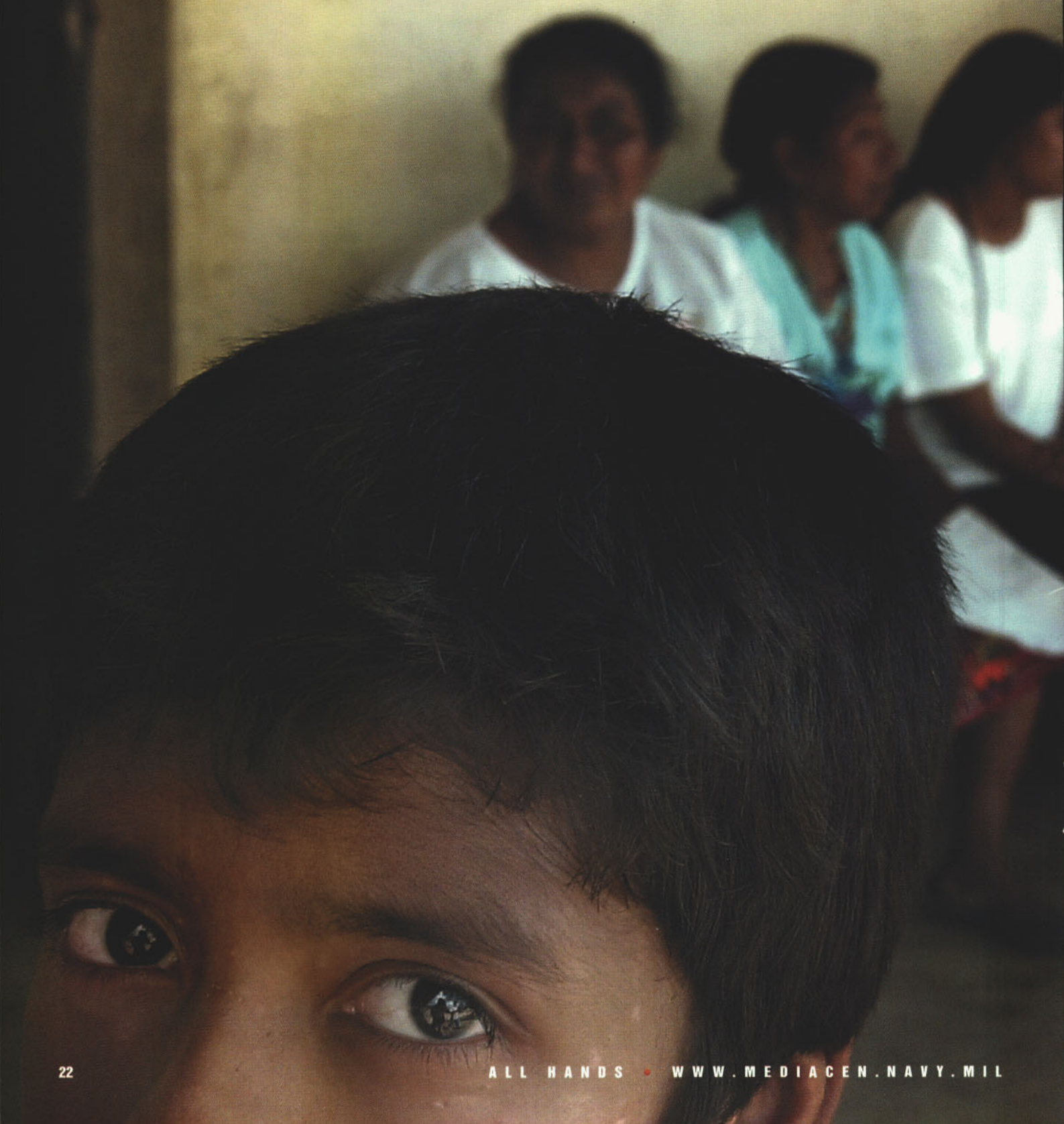
*Left* — The Williams' know how to have fun, like bowling together a couple of nights a month.

*Below* — Working together as one, CTOC(AW) Katherine Williams and CTMC Lee Williams try to motivate a recruit to pass her final physical readiness test so she can graduate.



Story and photos by JO1 Preston Keres

Inside the clinic compound, patients wait to be seen by one of the doctors on the humanitarian team.





# DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE ?

---

---

**Navy Doctors and Corpsmen Team Up with  
Civilian Medical Volunteers to Bring Sight  
and Healing to the Highlands of Guatemala**

**A**S THE SUN CREEPS OVER THE HORIZON, HOSPITAL Corpsman 3rd Class (FMF) Matt Dawson lifts the mosquito netting off his rack and nudges Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Ed Wargo sleeping in the next bunk. Dawson tells his teammate to get up and get ready for their next long day of work, even though their heads just hit the pillows a few hours before.

Their 10-hour bus ride from Guatemala City, over roads peppered with potholes resembling moon craters, allowed no sleep getting to camp. Once they arrived in Playa Grande, in the highlands of Guatemala, they faced hours

"The first couple of days I was tired and really wanted to go home," said Wargo.

"But as the week went on, we found our groove and I began to realize why we are here.

These people really need our help."



A young boy reluctantly takes medicine to rid his body of worms. This station is the first stop for all patients.



HM2 Ed Wargo works his way through the morning crowd, who have already congregated outside the gate of the clinic. Thousands of people show up hours, and even days, in advance to ensure they receive needed treatment.

of setup. They were only in the initial stages of this unique training evolution, and questions of, "Why did I do this?" had already crossed their minds.

"The first couple of days I was tired and really wanted to go home," said Wargo. "But as the week went on, we found our groove and I began to realize why we are here. These people really need our help."

Teamed with more than 50 civilian medical volunteers representing Helps International, the Navy medical team joined the humanitarian effort to make a difference for a people who are in desperate need of medical assistance and to gain valuable field experience. This real-world evolution helped boost the morale of those Sailors and doctors who were involved, and they were also able to become better skilled at their



*Left* – HM3 Joseph Green and HM3(FMF) Matt Dawson go over the list of remaining patients for that day. Lunch is over, but the chairs outside the operating room are still full of people who are going to be seen that day.

trades by working with the Guatemalan medical personnel.

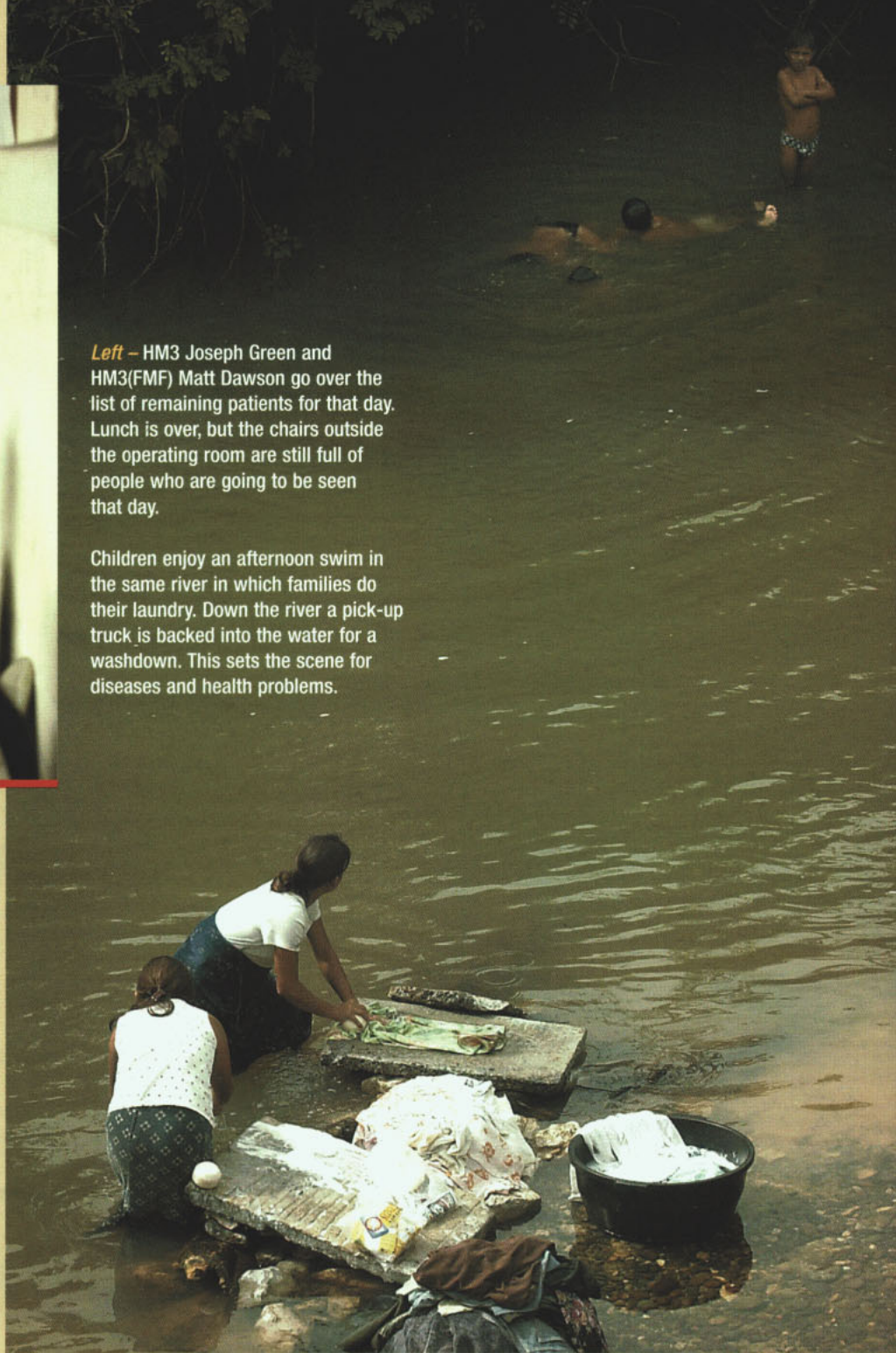
“This experience provides real-world scenarios and battle fatigue stress giving us the necessary training to perform in a combat arena,” said Wargo, from Naval Medical Center San Diego. “You couldn’t do this with [a training scenario] fleet hospital. These are real patients, real surgery, real 16-hour days.”

While Navy operational readiness is a big reason to participate in this evolution, it can’t be avoided that the potential for personal satisfaction also brings Sailors and doctors to Central America.

“It feels good working at home in the clinic, helping people see better,” said Dawson, also from Naval Medical Center San Diego. “But the difference working in Playa Grande is ten-fold. Here, we are restoring sight for the people of this region; we are truly making a difference in their lives.”

Over the years, the local military has not always come to the aid of the people from this northern region of Guatemala, just south of the Mexican border.

“Every family who comes to the clinic has a story involving massacres,” said



Children enjoy an afternoon swim in the same river in which families do their laundry. Down the river a pick-up truck is backed into the water for a washdown. This sets the scene for diseases and health problems.

Steve Miller, president and founder of Helps International, the civilian sponsor of the medical mission to Playa Grande.

For years, the guerillas in northern Guatemala, especially in the regional of Ixcán, controlled everything in the surrounding area except for a hill at the edge of the military base – just yards from the medical treatment clinic. Many innocent civilians have been caught in the middle

of a war between the country’s military and the guerillas.

“The symbolism of these people bringing their family to a military base is extremely powerful, considering the history of this region,” said Miller.

According to the medical teams, the people of this region live in an environment that is extremely conducive to sickness and poor health. Their homes are



Little 6-year-old Martina has just come out of eye surgery where she received eye replacement prostheses.



Helps organizer, Deidrea Johnson spends time with Martina after her surgery. Despite her blindness and other medical problems, Martina remains in high spirits and enjoys playing games.

DO  
YOU  
SEE  
WHAT  
I SEE?

The team of Navy and civilian doctors, technicians and nurses prepare to perform eye surgery on Martina, who is blind in both eyes and suffers from many other health problems.

small, one-room shacks, with that one room having to serve as bedroom, living room and kitchen. The floors are dirt, and the air is soot-filled from a fire in the middle of the home that is used to cook and provide warmth on cold nights. These substandard living conditions create medical problems that are seldom treated in this remote area.

"Symptoms like blurred vision are treated right away in the United States," said Dawson. "Many of these people have been living with constantly deteriorating vision for up to 30 years."

"I lost it several times," said CDR (Dr.) George Ulrich, an ophthalmologist from Naval Medical Center San Diego. "I was very moved to see a man who had been blind and not seen his adult son in perhaps 30 years. I saw another guy as he discovered that he didn't

have to walk with a stick and he didn't have to shuffle his feet. He could see."

The children of Guatemala live in a world completely different to that of children in the United States. For Dawson, seeing how the youth play and interact with others was totally foreign from how he experienced life as a child in Madera, Calif.

"Here, [kids] don't know what a sandbox is, they don't know what a playground is — this is all they know," he said, as he watched a young Guatemalan girl playing in a muddy road filled with rocks and debris.

"Nearly everything about the lives we lead as Sailors in the United States makes the conditions that these patients live in look totally primitive. We are probably the only chance for health care that most of the indigenous people of Ixcán get for a whole year," noted Dawson.

The benefit of this sort of training to the people of Ixcán is obvious, but what's in it for the Navy?

"Are these doctors and corpsmen worth more to the Navy? Are they more content Sailors?" asked the Team Leader CDR (Dr.) Asa Morton, Naval Medical Center San Diego. "And most importantly, if you are on a gurney, maybe a victim of a landmine injury in some unforeseen conflict, are you going to feel more comfortable knowing that they have been in a very similar and hectic setting previously?"

The answers to these questions are obvious. The hard work and dedication invested during the time in country, as well as the time at home preparing for this challenging evolution, creates not only a better Sailor, both in heart and mind, but also generates a highly-trained medical corps that is ready when crisis calls.

"I think the whole trip was a very efficient exercise in projecting the good will of the United States and naval field medical," said Dawson. "We demonstrated the ease with which a team of Navy doctors and corpsmen could augment a pre-existing civilian humanitarian effort. We exposed a group of people to just how well-trained and professional today's Sailors are."



A young girl plays in the puddles outside the clinic as her family waits to be treated. Many of the patients who are seen have blurry vision due to a dirty environment and homes filled with soot from their cooking fires.

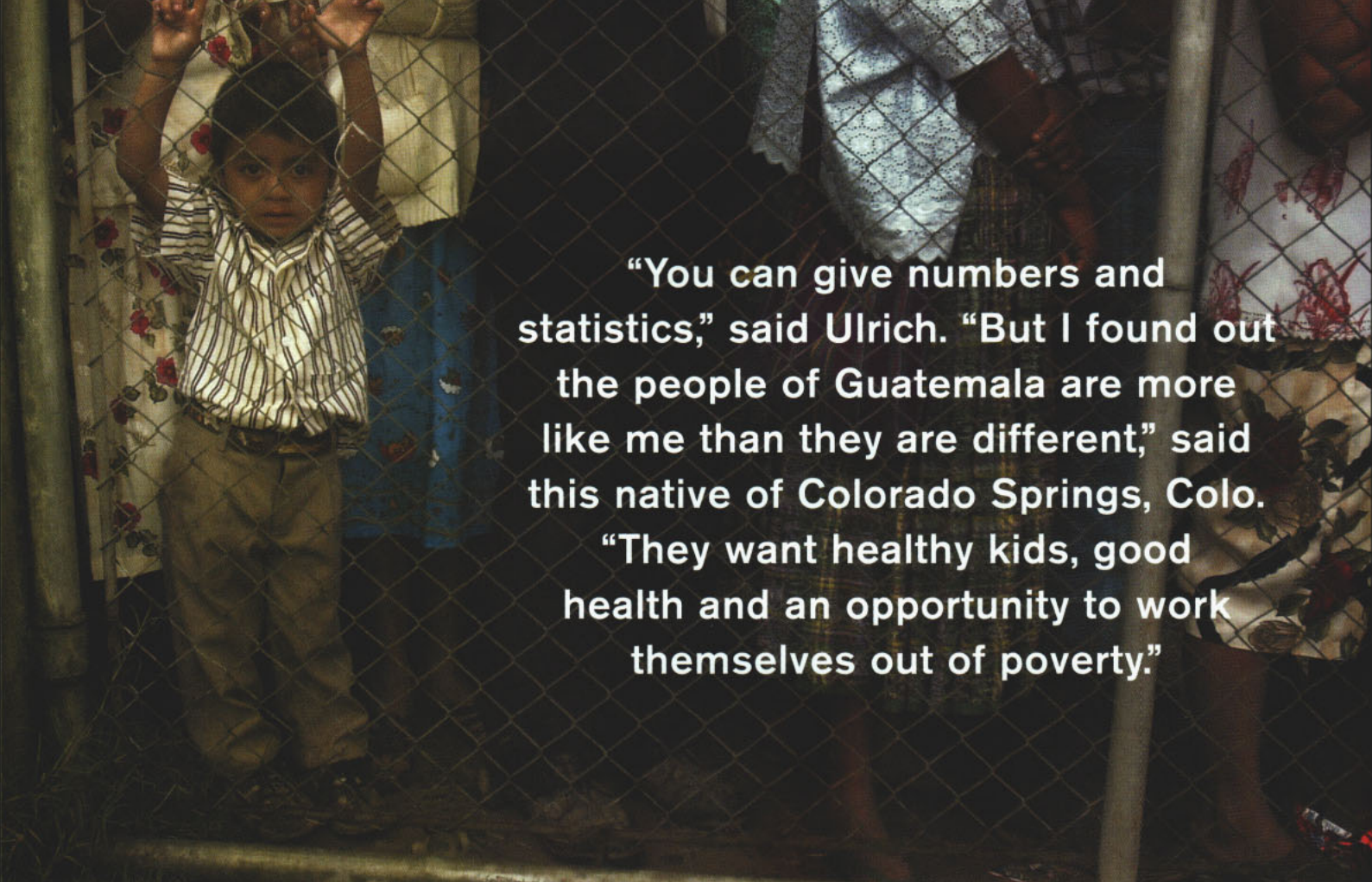
Because the team hit the ground running when they arrived in Playa Grande, they were able to get seven intense training days in, out of the total 12-day commitment; not counting travel in and out of the region.

"It's also much more cost effective. When our core team shows up, Helps International staff already has the anesthesia, the heavy [operating room] beds, the generators, the oxygen tanks, etc.," said Morton. "If we had to arrive with

all this gear it would be a major airlift; lots more people would need to be involved and the cost would sky rocket. Many more man-hours would need to be invested in setup, than in actual training."

The corpsmen involved were also able to work on their logistics capabilities by obtaining necessary equipment and supplies for the trip and by also setting up and breaking down their particular workstations.

"We had a chance to work outside the



**“You can give numbers and statistics,” said Ulrich. “But I found out the people of Guatemala are more like me than they are different,” said this native of Colorado Springs, Colo. “They want healthy kids, good health and an opportunity to work themselves out of poverty.”**



**HM3(FMF) Matt Dawson plays with a young boy and one of the new derby cars the Navy team brought as a gift for the children who receive treatment.**

**DO  
YOU  
SEE  
WHAT  
I SEE ?**

Hundreds of people wait outside the gates of the clinic in Playa Grande to receive medical care. Some are looking for a check-up and medicine, while others are suffering from much more serious problems.

box,” said Dawson. “In the clinic, only a couple of people work with requisitions and supplies, so when the real-world situations comes we are able to augment those who are assigned those duties.”

And, because the environment created scenarios unique to the region, the doctors were able to challenge their skills as well and show that the concept of working with other agencies for one common cause was viable.

“What we’re doing here is very historic, and to have the Navy out was truly wonderful,” said Miller of Helps International. “The integration was done really well. It’s always tough to get two groups with somewhat different goals together, but by the middle of the week, everyone was working extremely well. There is that patriotic side



HM2 Ed Wargo comforts HM3(FMF) Matt Dawson after an extremely tough procedure. "I've never worked with a patient in pain," said Dawson moments after assisting with a procedure that would normally require the patient be put to sleep. Resources only allowed for local anesthesia.

that goes through us, and we're proud of [the Navy] and we're proud to serve with [the Navy]."

Because the sea service cannot maintain a continuous presence in countries like Guatemala, the need to team up with humanitarian groups, like Helps, is essential to providing the proper follow-up.

"You can go to a country, give 200 blind people vision again, but if one patient has a complication and is unable to get follow up, your team will be remembered for abandoning that one," said Morton. "Continuity of care is crucial to a successful program."

"When the military team tags along — working not for, but in parallel with the NGO (non-governmental organization) — we get all the training benefit and share in the good will generated by the team as a whole," added Morton, who has been involved with this program since 1996.

When the mission was complete and it was time to pack up and head home, the team of civilian and Navy doctors had touched the lives of only a relatively few people in the Ixcán Region.

However, during their brief stay in

Playa Grande, more than 2,000 medical patients were seen, not counting the dental patients and 162 surgical procedures; breaking the previous record of 114 for this region. For the team, it wasn't about records, it was about seeing people and lending a helping hand.

"You can give numbers and statistics," said Ulrich. "But I found out the people of Guatemala are more like me than they are different," said this native of Colorado Springs, Colo. "They want healthy kids, good health and an opportunity to work themselves out of poverty."

And just like those hundreds of families who went home with a new perspec-


tive on life, so did the medical team and the support crew. "The procedures we do in everyday life make a significant difference in our patients' lives," said Dawson. "In Guatemala, the equivalent procedure changed the very quality of life for every patient we saw. From passing out glasses, to implanting artificial lenses, the people we saw were able to lead happier, more productive lives. That feels good."

"Nobody loses in this game," said Miller. "It's a win-win situation for everyone involved." ☑

*Keres is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.*



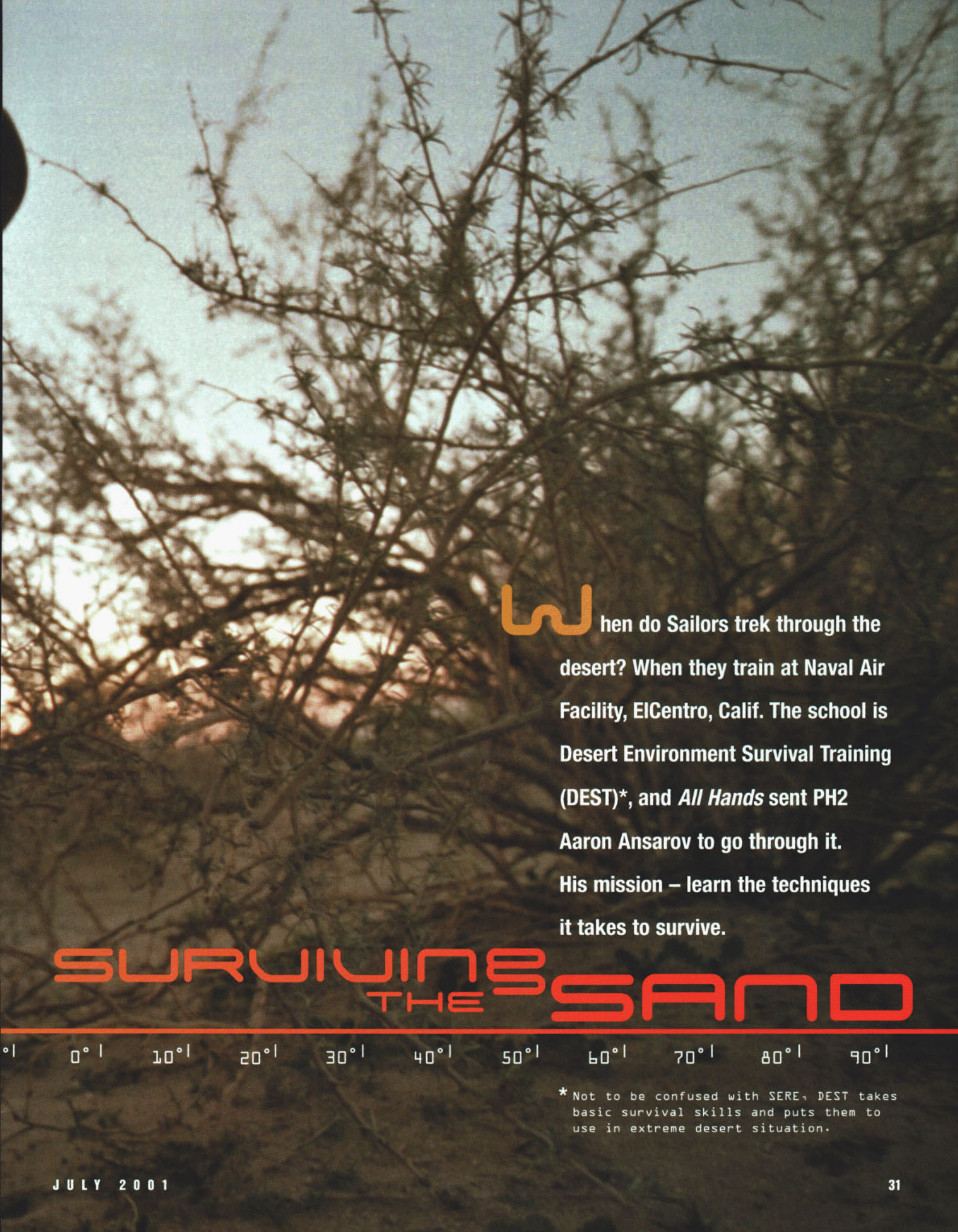
A elderly man's hat sits outside the operating room during eye surgery to improve his vision.

A man in camouflage gear is crouching in a desert environment during sunset. The scene is dimly lit, with the warm glow of the setting sun visible in the background, creating a silhouette effect on the man. The man is wearing a camouflage shirt and pants, and a watch is visible on his left wrist. He is looking down, appearing to be waiting or observing something on the ground.

Story and photos by PH2 Aaron Ansarov

Like waiting for the starter's gun at a relay race, HM2(FMF) Dan Garner waits patiently for the sun to set. Moving now could mean being seen and caught before the night even begins.

0° | -110° | -100° | -90° | -80° | -70° | -60° | -50° | -40° | -30° | -20° | -10°

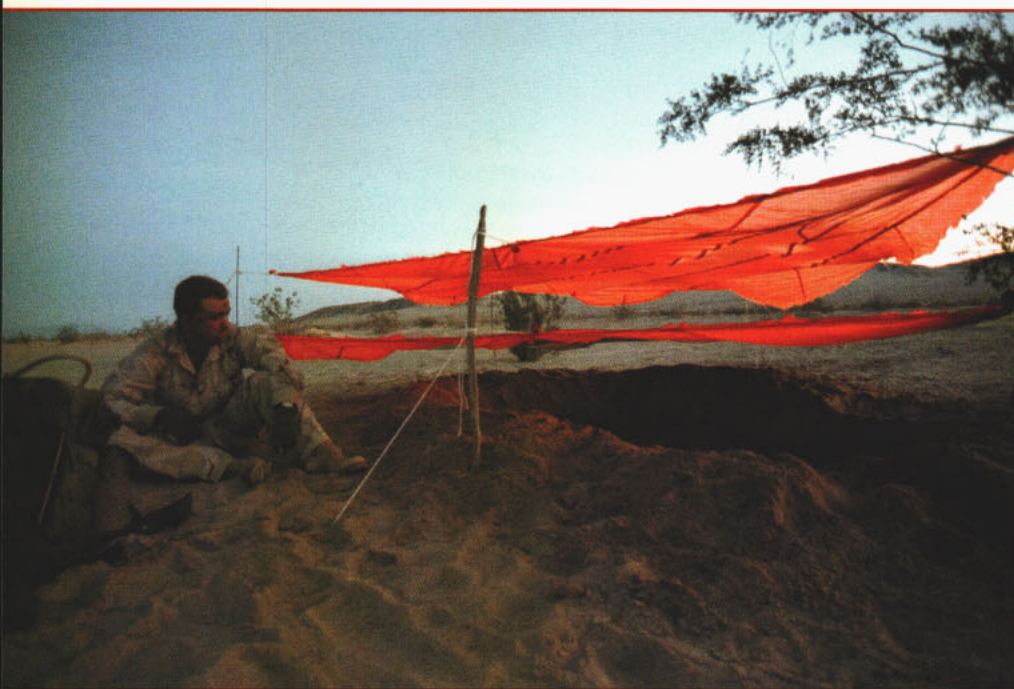


**W**hen do Sailors trek through the desert? When they train at Naval Air Facility, ElCentro, Calif. The school is Desert Environment Survival Training (DEST)\*, and *All Hands* sent PH2 Aaron Ansarov to go through it. His mission – learn the techniques it takes to survive.

# SURVIVING THE SAND

° | 0° | 10° | 20° | 30° | 40° | 50° | 60° | 70° | 80° | 90° |

\* Not to be confused with SERE, DEST takes basic survival skills and puts them to use in extreme desert situation.



*Top* – One of the students found himself a new friend while preparing his shelter. In a real-life survival situation, this scorpion would make a tasty meal. “You just put it in your mouth and bite below the stinger,” said one of the students.

*Above* – HM2(FMF) Dan Garner takes a quick breather after spending a good two hours on his desert shade shelter. For it to work properly, the hole should be at least a foot deep, and the thin sheets of parachute should also be separated to keep a good air flow.

*Right* – HM2 (FMF) Dan Garner (foreground) and the rest of the DEST class are in high-risk job fields that require having this training like pilots, SEALs, Marines, and combat crewmen.

## DAY ONE — MONDAY

**5:45 A.M.** – Arrive at Fleet Aviation Specialized Operation Training Group Pacific (FASOTRAGRUPAC) headquarters at Naval Air Station North Island. I walk in the classroom, backpack in hand and camera belt on my waist. The other 24 Sailors going through the class give me a funny look. “You’re going to carry all that,” says one of the other students as I unsnap my camera belt and sit down at the table. “Yep!”

I reply excitedly. “I’m going through as a student and doing a story on this class.”

“Good luck,” he says as he chuckles and walks away, glancing back at my 25 pounds of gear.

“It’s pretty light,” I think to myself, “But what else can I get rid of? All I packed was extra shirts, socks, toothbrush, space blanket, knife, sunglasses, flashlight and camel back full of water. Then there’s the camera gear: one camera body, four lenses, flash and a bag of film. I take a look around the classroom and notice I stand out like the one-legged man in a kicking contest.

I’m in a room filled with pilots, SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewmembers and others whose survival in the field may rely on what they are about to learn in the next week.

**6:15 A.M.** – An instructor walks in the room with list in hand and pairs us off into navigation teams of two. “PH2 Aaron Ansarov and HM2 Dan Garner, you guys are NavTeam Delta 2.” I get up and move to where Garner is sitting and introduce myself. He gives me a quick look over.

“Have you done this before?” he asks with a curious look on his face.

“Nope,” I reply curiously.

I wait for him to say good luck like the other people. He says nothing.

**6:45 A.M.** – Our bus finally arrives. We load in and try to get ourselves comfortable. We have a three-hour drive ahead of us to Naval Air Facility, El Centro. The instructor says firmly, “I suggest you guys stay awake and get to know your partner. After all, you

will be living together for the next week.”

As soon as the instructor leaves, everyone simultaneously turns their head and closes their eyes. I follow suit. After all, we’ll probably need as much sleep as possible.

**10 A.M.** — We arrive at a small building on top of a hill in the middle of nowhere. We pile out, stretch our legs, get five Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs) for the week and head straight into another classroom to begin training. We sit through different Powerpoint presentations including Desert Hazards, shelters and night signals, medicine, radio procedures, and water survival.

“Are you getting all this?” I jokingly ask my NavTeam partner, Dan.

“This is just refresher,” he replies.

I soon find out that he is stationed with FASO and is going through this class so he can then be an instructor next time. I then found out he has spent most of his naval career with the Marine’s Fleet Marine Force (FMF), has gone through much harder courses and been through a ton of rougher exercises than this. I begin to feel a little better, knowing that at least Dan knows what he’s doing. I doubt Dan feels as confident about me as I am of him. I’m sure he’s convinced I’m not going to make it.

I hope he’s wrong.

**4 P.M.** — We finish class training and begin our first night of survival. Dan and I were given two sections of parachute and told to go build a shelter for the night. We have only a few more hours before nightfall so we have to hurry. I follow Dan’s lead and try not to look like that one-legged guy again.

We dig a ditch about 18 inches deep and tie the two pieces of parachute above. It looks great. I think back to one of the lectures we heard in class about shelters; blends in, low to the ground, irregular shape, small and secluded (BLISS). It passes.

We then take our MREs and Dan shows me how to break them down. Splitting up the different rations and placing them in the different pockets of my flight suit, I realize that my weight has just increased. I’m not upset though. I could be eating scorpions, lizards and snakes if this was a matter of life-and-death. There aren’t too many fast food joints in the desert.

**8 P.M.** — We take on the confidence course. We muster outside the building which is bright enough to be a beacon. The mission: navigate to four different points in the desert. I think it’s more of a test for them to make sure we don’t end up in Mexico. Either way, Dan and I

make it through just fine.

“So how far did we walk?” I ask Dan, thinking we walked about five miles.

“About three clicks,” he says.

“So that’s about five miles, right?”

“Not quite,” he replies. “More like almost two.”

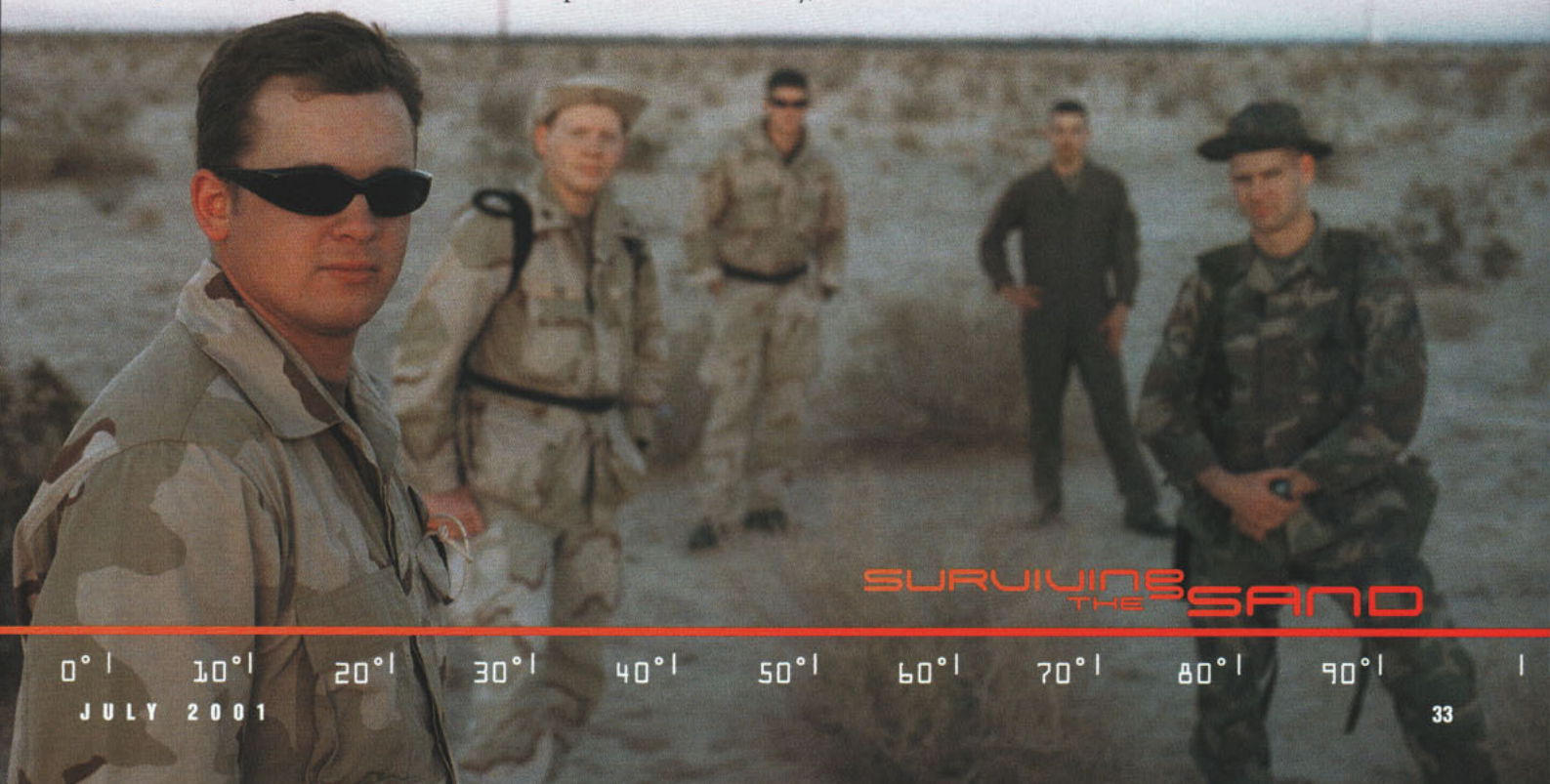
## DAY TWO — TUESDAY

**6:30 A.M.** — I survived the first night; sort of. It was quite an experience sleeping in a hole in the ground with temperatures getting down to about 40 degrees, and nothing for warmth but a cheap space blanket.

“These shelters are meant more for survival in the desert sun,” said Dan. “For the rest of the week we’ll be running at night and sleeping during the day. Trust me, you won’t be cold the rest of the time here.”

I don’t know if that’s a good thing or not.

**7:30 A.M.** — After a quick wash up, I shake my boots for scorpions and put them on. We have a full day of classes ahead of us. We listen to survival lectures about getting medicine from plants, catching prey, getting water and evading the enemy.



SURVIVING  
THE SAND



**Top** – DEST students practice firing personal flares into the sky. In a real-life situation, these flares would be used to help the rescue team find the exact location of a survivor.

**Above** – Sleeping can be a challenge in itself while trying to acclimate to the heat. HM2(FMF) Dan Garner attempts to cover his eyes while trying to remain as comfortable as possible in a hole in the dirt. He, and the other students, need as much sleep as possible to conserve energy for the night of running and hiding that lies ahead of them.

**Right** – The students of DEST relax as much as they can to build energy before the sun sets. They will need it in the days to come.

**12:30P.M.** – We break for lunch.

Maybe I shouldn't have had such a big dinner last night. I realize I have to ration better if I'm going to have enough food to last the rest of the week. Oh well, I've been meaning to go on a diet anyway.

**5 P.M.** – Classes are over. It seemed to me like that was a test in survival in itself. Now it's time to get ready for the exercise. We are given a radio and spare battery, extra water bottle, emergency flares, glow sticks and an emergency strobe light. I just gained another five pounds.

**8 P.M.** – Our mission begins. We are told board the two SH-60 *Seahawks*, which bear an awfully close resemblance to two white vans. To keep things interesting, we put on blindfolds on and wait as the *Seahawks* "fly" across the desert.

**8:30 P.M.** – Before we know it, our "*Seahawk*" lands, doors open, a NavTeam jumps out and the "*Seahawk*" takes off for another quarter mile. Next thing we know, it's our turn. I take off my blindfold and get out. We are tossed a gigantic parachute and left in the dust as our "*Seahawk*" disappears in the distance. Dan and I scoop up the parachute between us and start to run into the night. My heart is racing. There seems to be gunfire coming from everywhere. People are yelling, and we keep running. I am having a hard time keeping up. Dan turns and asks if I'm all right.

"Yeah," I gasp as I almost trip over a bush.

Then all of a sudden, the sky lights up, bright as day.

"Get down," Dan whispers firmly to me. "It's a flare. Just stay still until it goes out."

I'm glad, too, because I can take a short break from running. Then I hear them. Feet. From the corner of my eye, I see two instructors (the enemy) not even 20 feet away. I hold my breath and st

**9:30 P.M.** — We made it. So far. We get far enough that we can finally rest a little without worrying about the flares. Dan grabs a shirt from his pack and rolls the parachute inside. He ties the ends together and then to the top of his pack. We then break out the radio.

"Eagle-one, Eagle-one, this is Delta-two," whispers Dan into the receiver.

He has an earphone connected to minimize noise that might give us away. They talk back-and-forth, giving lingo we memorized earlier. We are given coordinates to a new location and then sign off. I put the radio away and break out the map and compass. We have to figure out where we are by triangulation.

"We set the map to match our compass to North," whispers Dan. "Then we find three landmarks on the map that we can see and figure what degree they are from us."

"We then make lines on the map with string, and where the lines intersect is our approximate location," Dan adds (The reason for using string instead of writing on the map is in case of capture, the enemy won't know where we've been).

We now have just three small problems — we're in the middle of the desert, it's pitch black and there aren't too many landmarks to triangulate off of — even if we could see them.

**9:45** — Fortunately, we find three landmarks, figure out our location and track down where we need to go to get to our objective. With time to spare before the

enemy comes back on us again.

"So how far is it?" I ask Dan. "We'll go about eight clicks and retriangulate, but we're probably not farther than 10 clicks." he replies like it's a good thing.

I've decided not to ask him how far again.

### DAY THREE — WEDNESDAY

**2 A.M.** — After a few stops and changes in directions to avoid capture, we finally make our objective — a large marker with two five-gallon jugs of water for each team. I'm excited, not only because I made it without having to dump my camera gear or have Dan place an IV in my arm, but also because we made it before half of the other teams made it.

"We did good, Dan, didn't we?" I cheerfully say to him.

"Yep. We did. Now let's go dig a hole," he reminds me.

**4:30 A.M.** — We pick a spot a few hundred yards from the water drop and close to some bushes. We take turns digging and when we had it deep enough, cut the parachute into four triangular pieces. Three go on top of the hole. Each level shades the sun twice as much, and the reason for having them separated is for the breeze to keep the hot air flowing. The hole also keeps cooler air in and hotter air out. The larger piece of chute is used to line the inside to give some kind of feeling of comfort. It looked great and very enticing after a long night. We both crawled in and almost immediately fell asleep.

**12:30 P.M.** — "It's hot," I thought to myself.

Soon after, Dan looks at the little thermometer in his pack and says, "It's 90 degrees. Not bad considering it's about 105 outside." The parachutes make that much of a difference.

This could mean life or death in a real-life situation. We learned in class that the human body takes much longer to adapt to a hot weather environment (seven to 14 days) than to adapt to cold weather (three to 10 days). If we don't stay in the shade and drink lots of water throughout the day and night, we could get seriously dehydrated in a hurry. I keep a watchful eye for the signs that I may be dehydrated and keep drinking.

**6 P.M.** — We break camp, took down the parachute, filled the hole, and made the site look like we were never there. Sanitizing the area keeps the enemy from knowing where we were. As I took the almost empty jugs of water back to the drop off point, I started feeling that pain that was trying to get my attention the night before.

"Boy am I sore," I say to Dan.

"You better not be," said Dan. "I have a funny feeling we'll be doing a lot more walking tonight."

He hands me two of the four pieces of parachute to carry. Now my weight has gone from 25 pounds to probably more than 40 pounds.





**Top** – SGT Moses Welborn and GMG1(SWCC) Christopher Velasco look over their map and try to decide what action they will be taking next. From this point on, they have to be extremely careful as to the use of a flashlight. In the desert, the light from a cigarette lighter can be seen for miles.

**Above** – Getting as much sleep as they can, DEST students find the most unusual ways of getting comfortable on a bus during the three-hour drive to Naval Air Facility, El Centro, Calif.

**Right** – Chasing the sun, HM2(FMF) Dan Garner begins his night walking to a good location away from possible aggressors trying to capture him. He will then find a bush to hide under until he can establish communications for directions to his next destination.



**8 P.M.** – Dan was right. After calling in, we find out that our new objective is all the way around Superstition Mountain. I don't want to ask, but I have to.

"How far, Dan?"

"Oh, about 13 clicks if we keep close to the mountain, but there are a lot of dried up river beds, so it'll probably be slow. You ready?"

I nod a sluggish, "yes," and we get up to go.

**10 P.M.** – Since we knew there would probably be a lot of enemy activity around our area, we decided to find a nice bush to hide under. It turns out this was a good decision because soon they, are all around us. Flares launched every five minutes and light up the night sky.

"Close one eye when you look at them," Dan says. "That way, you don't lose your night vision." I wish he had told me that when the first one was launched. It feels like its going to be hours before I can see without that black dot floating in my view where the flare used to be.

**11 P.M.** – We started moving, but after a half an hour, Dan has a hunch. We run under a large shrub and wait for about five minutes. Sure enough, out of nowhere a large truck comes up over a hill.

"My legs are hanging out," I whisper to Dan.

"You're OK, he replied. "Just don't move. They can't see as well as you can see them because of the lights."

They pass by only yards away. I begin to breathe again.

#### DAY FOUR – THURSDAY

**2:30 A.M.** – We've been walking non-stop through terrain that would be difficult in broad daylight. We've had a few close calls with the "enemy" and I'm feeling very down. Aside from carrying my extra camera gear, I am doing the same thing other Sailors have done before me, but they were in real-life situations with real enemies. But, that's what these students are here for. Whatever the situation, this training prepares Sailors for the worst.

**5:30 A.M.** – We finally make it to our objective — water. Without a word, we search for a good spot and start digging. Our bodies are on

automatic and we both know the sooner we get this hole dug and the shelter made; the sooner we can rest.

**NOON** – I'm feeling very sore and have a ton of blisters on my feet. I also feel like I'm sweating more than I can drink. I'm hungry, and I'm down to two MRE rations left.

**5 P.M.** – "Last stretch," I say to myself, but I know this has to be the hardest of it all. I try not to get depressed. We break camp, and find a safe hiding spot.

**8 P.M.** – Sure enough, we find our last stretch means going around to the other side of the mountain. We move out. The flares seem to be coming down one right after another. We decide to take a short detour to avoid capture once again. It takes us at least a couple miles away from where we are supposed to be, but it's better than the alternative, capture, harassment and a drive back to our camp to start over.

#### **DAY FIVE — FRIDAY**

**3:30 A.M.** – We made it! This is it. The real last stretch. All we have to do now is wait for our rescue. The rest of the NavTeams are there and we talk about our evasions and near captures.

**6 A.M.** – I don't know what's better, walking all night and keeping warm, or standing for hours and freezing. Then we see it – that distant signal for us to make our way in.

**6:45 A.M.** – We make it to our mark and in keeping with the exercise, we are placed face down in the sand and individually asked personal questions that we previously wrote the answers to on the first day. This is a standard procedure to make sure we are who we say we are. All of it was serious until one of the Sailors is asked what his cat's name is.

He replied, "My cat's name is Fluffy."

The whole group breaks into laughter and gives a big sigh that the exercise is about over.

**7:30 A.M.** – We meet up at a lookout station and are bused back to our original class area where bottles of Gatorade and muffins waited for us. Then we get on the bus and head home.

**NOON** – We arrive back at NAS North Island. We definitely look the way we feel – smelly, dirty and tired. We get off the bus and shuffle into the classroom. We line up and receive our certificates, stating we have successfully completed the Desert Environmental Survival

Training course. I look at my certificate with a big smile.

I made it.

While the experience has been a good one, I'm unlikely to get in a desert survival situation. As for the others, their jobs may put them in such a situation, and if it does, what they learned at DEST will keep them alive.

I turn to my partner and say, "Thanks Dan, I doubt I would have made it without your help."

He replied, "No problem Aaron, You did good. I'd make you my Nav partner any day."

I tell him thanks again and leave.

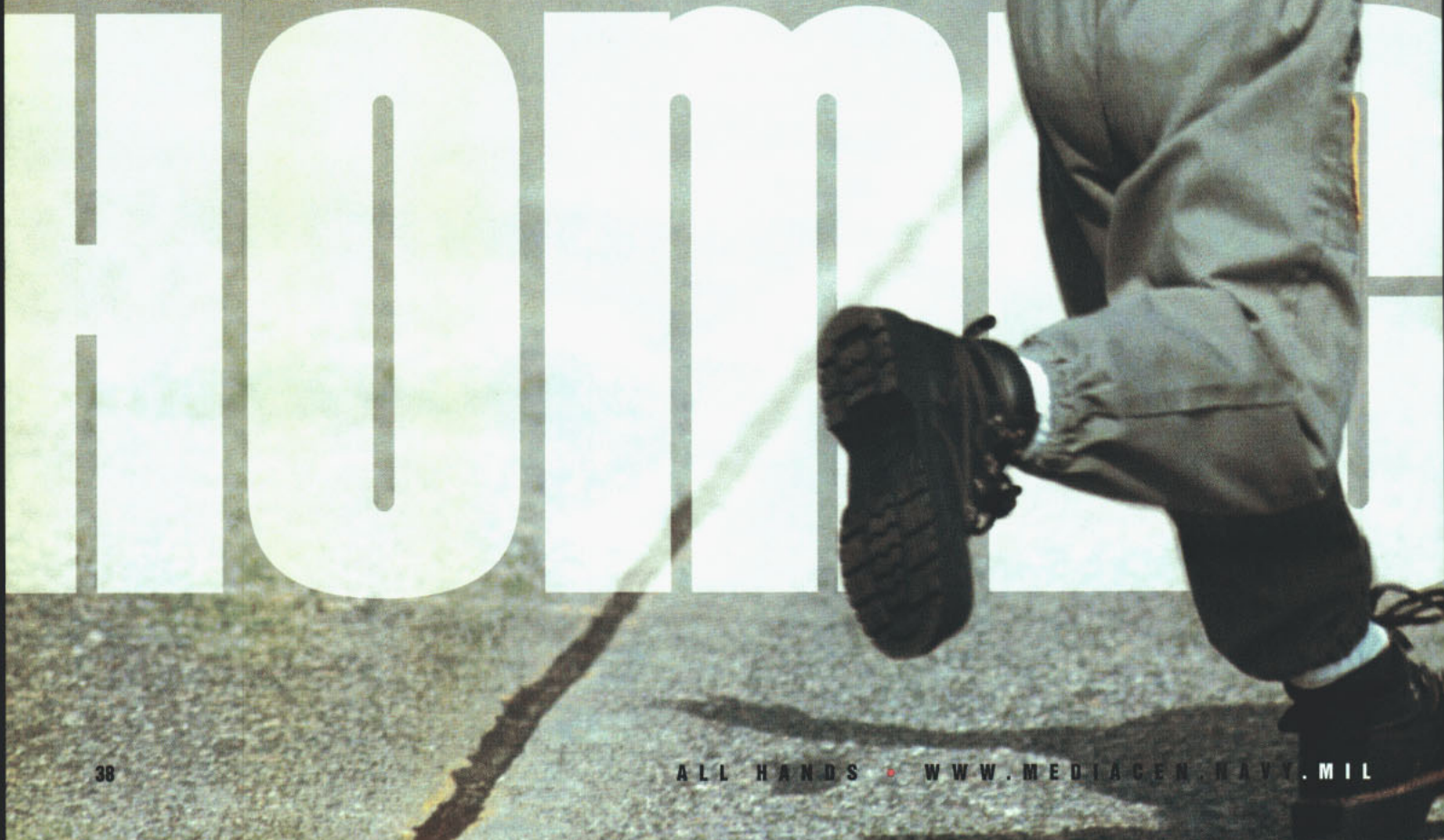
Next objective; taking a shower. ☒

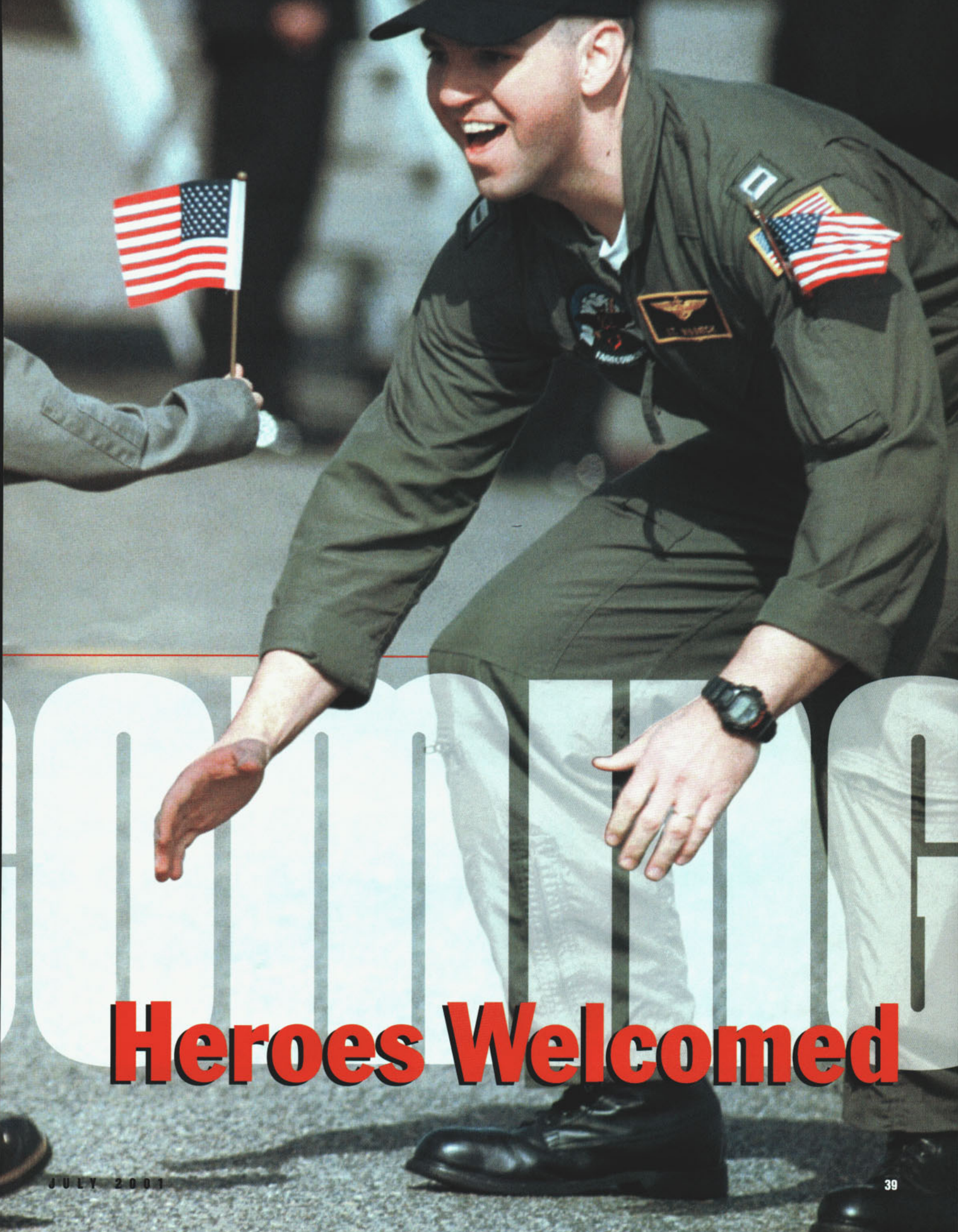
*Ansarov is a San Diego-based photojournalist assigned to All Hands.*

**SURVIVING  
THE SAND**

Story and photos by PH2 Aaron Ansarov

"Hey there little man," says LT Patrick Honeck to his son before giving him a long awaited hug after his arrival at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.





# Heroes Welcomed



*Left* – ATAN Howard Lofty of VP-69 was one of the many volunteers who helped with the welcome home preparations. "I've never been involved in anything this big, so it's pretty exciting for me," said Lofty.

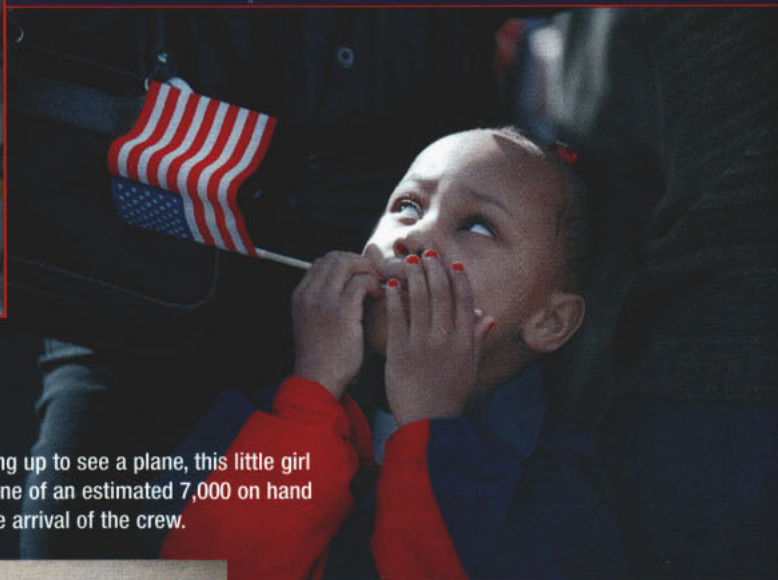


*Left* – Flags and buttons were handed out to friends and family who were there to welcome home the crew that came to help show their support for the arrival of the crew.

*Below* – Shortly after their arrival, members of Combat Squadron (VQ) 1 gather once again to sit through a briefing on what to expect during upcoming festivities.



Looking up to see a plane, this little girl was one of an estimated 7,000 on hand for the arrival of the crew.



IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SIMPLE FLIGHT, but for the 24-member crew of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 1, out of Whidbey Island, Wash., it became an 11-day ordeal.

On April 1, 2001, a Chinese military jet collided with an EP-3E *Aries II* off the coast of Hainan Island. The crew quickly realized their plane was going down. About the time fear began to overtake them, the crew's training kicked in and everyone did what was needed to stay alive and safe.

# Homecoming

Heroes Welcomed



The son of one of the returning crew members cheers for the plane as it arrives at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.



*Far Left* – First off the plane, LT Shane Osborn, pilot of the ill-fated EP-3, waves to the thousands of fans who showed up for the crew's homecoming.

*Left* – A child runs down the runway after the long day of waiting is over for the homecoming ceremony.



Mathew Farage, a native to Whidbey Island said, "We're out here to support the returning crew."

Crew members of Combat Reconnaissance Crew (VQ) 1 look exhausted during their homecoming ceremony at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Wash.



Eleven long days later, the Sino-American standoff ended. Their families and the nation waited as the crew came home. After a quick stop in Hawaii, they arrived at Whidbey Island and reunited with their family. A crowd of about 7,000 gathered to welcome these heroes home. One by one, each crew member walked off the plane, down the red carpet and into their family's waiting arms. For the VQ-1 crew, it was good to be home. ☐

*Ansarov is a San Diego-based photojournalist for All Hands.*

# HOME COMING

Heroes Welcomed



CT1 Josef Edmunds receives a warm greeting from his family as he arrives home to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.

# Night School

Story and photo by PH2(AW) Jim Watson

**I**T SEEMS THERE ARE NEVER ENOUGH HOURS IN THE DAY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Ill., where scores of "A" and "C" school students roll through training monthly. Here, on the campus of Tech Corps, a preliminary "A" school that teaches the basics of electronics, the strain of not enough time and space can surely be seen — and felt — because they are putting troops through classes almost around the clock. They begin at 6 a.m. and finish up at midnight.

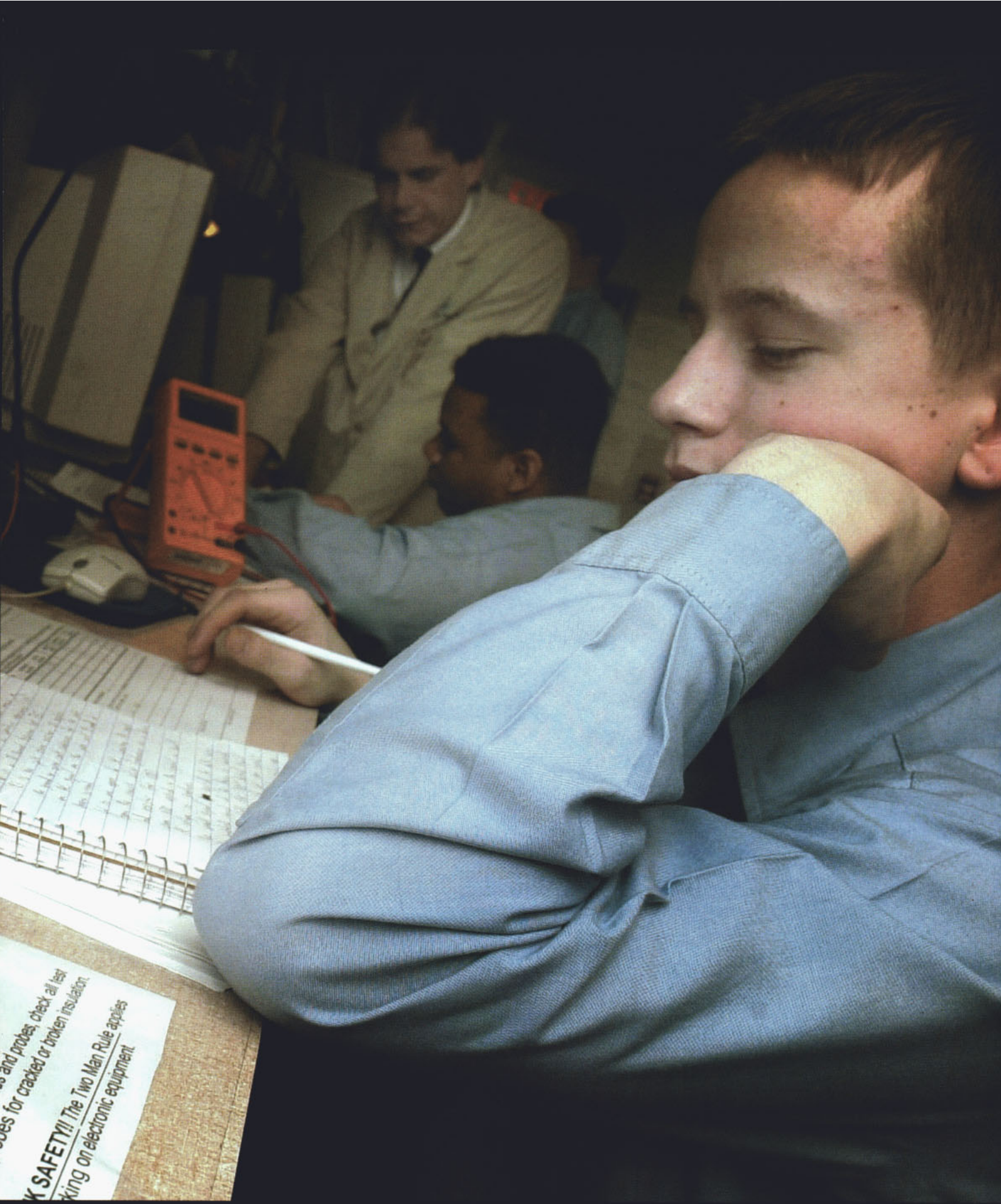
"We have three shifts of classes here at Tech Corps," said LT Mike Hassenger, who is in charge of the pre-"A" school. "The students go from 6 a.m. to noon, noon to 6 p.m., and then 6 p.m. to midnight. All in all, there are 18 hours of continuous training here."

This may seem a little strange, but when you have 1,429 students like Seaman Apprentice Dwayne Foster who is preparing in limited space for fire controlman "A" school, you have to do something a little off the wall.

"I don't mind going to school on the last shift," said Foster, as he stared down the clock hoping to hurry along the next two hours so he and his 424 classmates on the 6 p.m. to midnight shift can get some sleep. "It can be hard though. Especially on Fridays seeing all your friends heading out and on liberty."

The classes, which consist of up to 36 students, teach either instructor-based labs and instruction in electronics, or the new self-paced lessons, which are proving to be quite popular in the curriculum. In the self-paced lesson style, students use a computer to learn electronic functions, test out units and see the instructors only when they get stuck on a problem. The school deals mainly with electronic technicians and fire controlman and has instructors from San Diego Community College. ☒

*Watson is a photojournalist assigned to All Hands.*



# Eye on the Fleet

## EYE ON THE FLEET

is a monthly photo feature sponsored by the Chief of Information Navy Visual News Service. We are looking for **HIGH IMPACT,** quality photography from **SAILORS** in the fleet to showcase the American Sailor in **ACTION.**



### WILD RIDE

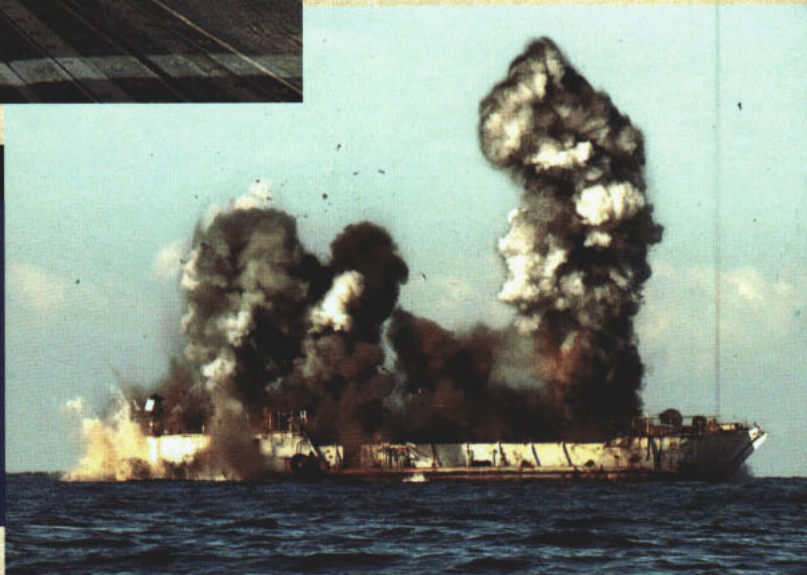
A Sailor stands watch as aft lookout on the fantail of the guided missile frigate USS *Vandegrift* (FFG 48), during harsh sea conditions off the Sea of Japan.

Photo by AMSC Douglas Waddell

### FIRE IN THE HOLE

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 3, stationed at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, blows up a junked ship during a sinking exercise (SINKEX) in San Diego harbor. This confiscated craft was environmentally prepared for destruction and will now become a home for ocean life.

Photo by PH3 Jennifer A. Smith





## IN STEP

Sailors march down Marine Drive in the International City Parade held during the International Fleet Review in Mumbai, India. More than 70 ships and submarines from 19 nations participated in the event, which included maritime seminars, speeches, parades and a review by the the President of India, His Excellency Shri KR Narayan.

Photo by PH1 Chris Desmond



## LIGHT SHOW

An F/A-18C *Hornet* attached to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 27 launches from the bow catapult aboard USS *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63).

Photo by PH1 William R. Goodwin

## VIEWING GALLERY

Sailors aboard USS *Boxer* (LPD 4) scan the pier, looking for friends and family as the ship departs on a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Photo by PH1 Charles P. Cavanaugh.



## TO BE CONSIDERED

forward your high resolution (5"x7" at 300 dpi) images with full credit and outline information, including full name, rank and duty station. Name all identifiable people within the photo and include important information about what is happening, where the photo was taken and the date.

Commands with digital photo capability can send attached .jpg files to: [navynewsphoto@hq.navy.mil](mailto:navynewsphoto@hq.navy.mil)

Mail your submissions to:  
NAVY VISUAL INFORMATION DIV.  
NAVAL MEDIA CENTER,  
2713 MITSCHER RD., S.W.  
ANACOSTIA ANNEX, D.C.  
20373-5819

# Happy to Volunteer

Story and photo by JO1 Preston Keres

**T**here are times in your life when you have the chance to reach out and help a total stranger, or maybe even a friend. Whether it's giving a homeless person a sandwich, helping your neighbor move a heavy piece of furniture or assisting a stranded traveler on the side of the road with a flat tire, everyone has the opportunity to affect another person's life in a positive manner.

Many times, you don't know why you are doing it; the urge just consumes you at the time. But when you are finished, you have a sense of pride knowing a difference was made in someone's life, even if only for a moment.

Maybe that's exactly why you helped in the first place. Somewhere in the back of your mind, you felt that you would get something out of the gesture – maybe you would even get more out of the experience than the recipient would.

For Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Joseph Green assigned to National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., that may have been exactly why he did what he did. Instead of waiting and possibly missing the opportunity to join a team of medical specialists on their trip to Playa Grande, Guatemala, he dug into his pockets, paid his own way and used some of his hard-earned leave days to be involved in the experience. For it was there, in Guatemala that he would also get a chance to use his skills as a surgical/ocular technician in a way he had never done before.

"I was able to treat more patients with a greater variety of eye problems than I would have at home. It allowed me to grow in my field and understand more about diagnosis and treatments for patients," said Green.

What made Green's volunteering on this occasion even more

special was the magnitude of the gesture and to whom his efforts were directed. It wasn't like he just said, "I'll clean up after a command picnic." This was mind-boggling.

"When I got to Guatemala, I saw a portion of a country's society that still lives in villages," said Green. "These are villages where health care is virtually non-existent, there's a severe lack

of education and the level of poverty is extremely high. Living in huts and shacks and working 10 to 16 hours a day in the fields just to put food on the table is a hard life to live. I felt a great sadness. This way of living is all they know and when I treated them, just seeing a smile on their face is knowing I actually made a difference in their lives."

Back in Bethesda, this 24-year-old, native of Winters, Calif., goes to college at night, while most of the people he treated in the highlands of Guatemala didn't have a high school education.

His patients in Playa Grande would wait in line for hours for treatment and wouldn't get antsy because they had to wait. They worried about where their next meal was coming from and how they would get rid of the pain in their eyes and body, so they can get a full day of labor in tomorrow to earn just a couple of dollars for life's necessities.

"Going to Playa gave me a whole new perspective on things. I thank

God for what I have in life," said Green. "We all work, eat, sleep and try to better our lives for ourselves and family. Whether we live in the United States or Guatemala, we all have the same goals in life – to be happy." ■

*Keres is the assistant editor for All Hands.*



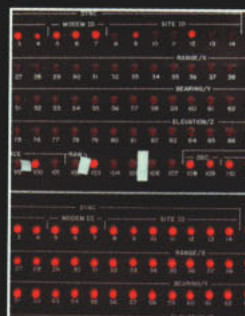
HM3 Joseph Green assists a patient during his volunteer work in Playa Grande Guatemala, located in the highlands just south of the Mexican border.

# 10Xteaser

**This uniform item lets Sailors know who's in charge. What is it?**

Photo by PH2(AW) Jim Watson

## Last Month's Answer:



The Pass Interface at *Desert Ship*, a missile testing range in White Sands, N.M. The interface tracks radar data directly from the missiles being fired.

Photo by PH2 Aaron Ansarov

Go to our web site at [www.mediacen.navy.mil](http://www.mediacen.navy.mil) or wait for next month's inside back cover to learn the answer...

## PR2 (DV/PJ) Jason Thompson

Served for 10 years.

Stationed with Consolidated Divers Unit (CDU)

"I have a genuine love for every part of my job.  
The people I work with feel the same way,  
which means everybody loves coming  
to work in the morning."



# "I'm staying."

[www.staynavy.navy.mil](http://www.staynavy.navy.mil)